

Ann Arbor Observer

October, 1979

Vol. IV, No. 2



50 Years Later: The Depression Remembered

War Stories • A Visit with the Dalai Lama • The Schools - Part Two

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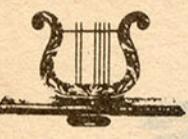
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Ann Arbor Observer

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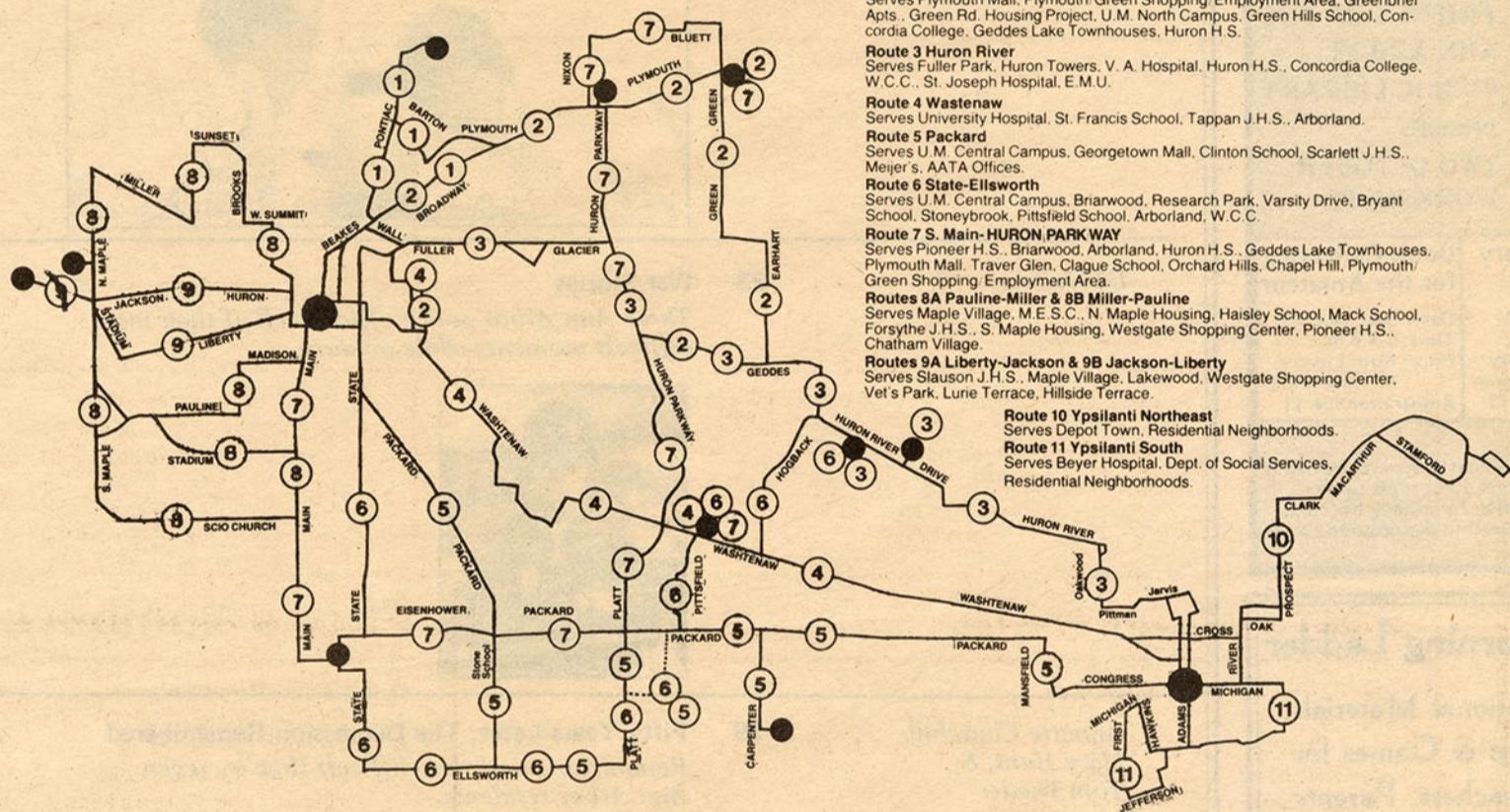
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The Ride

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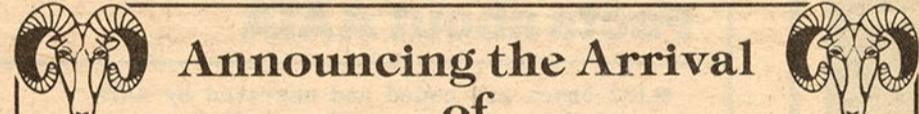
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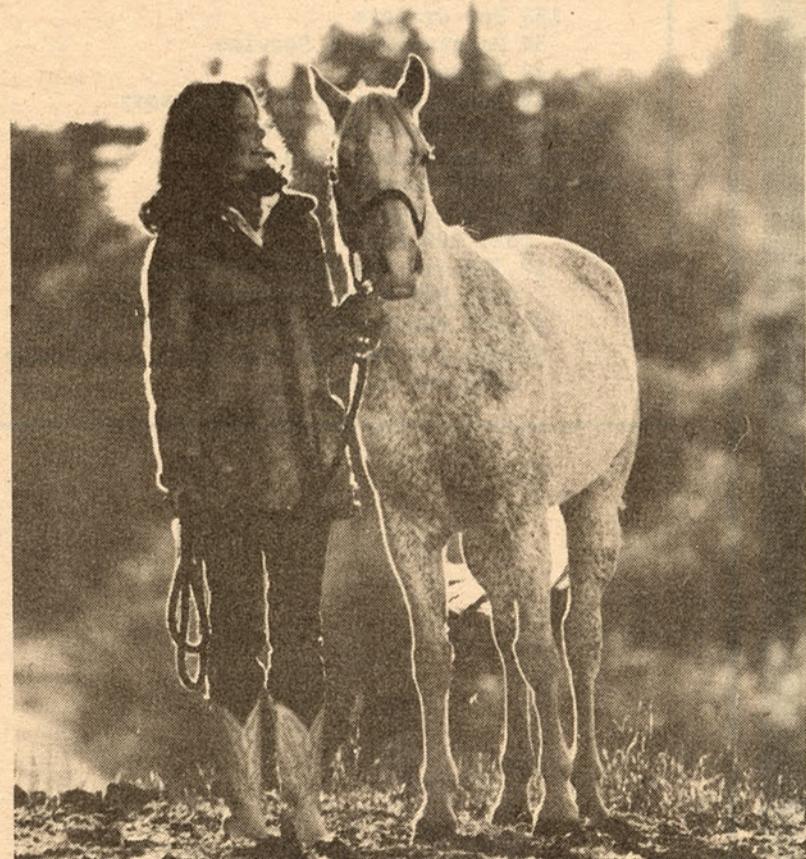
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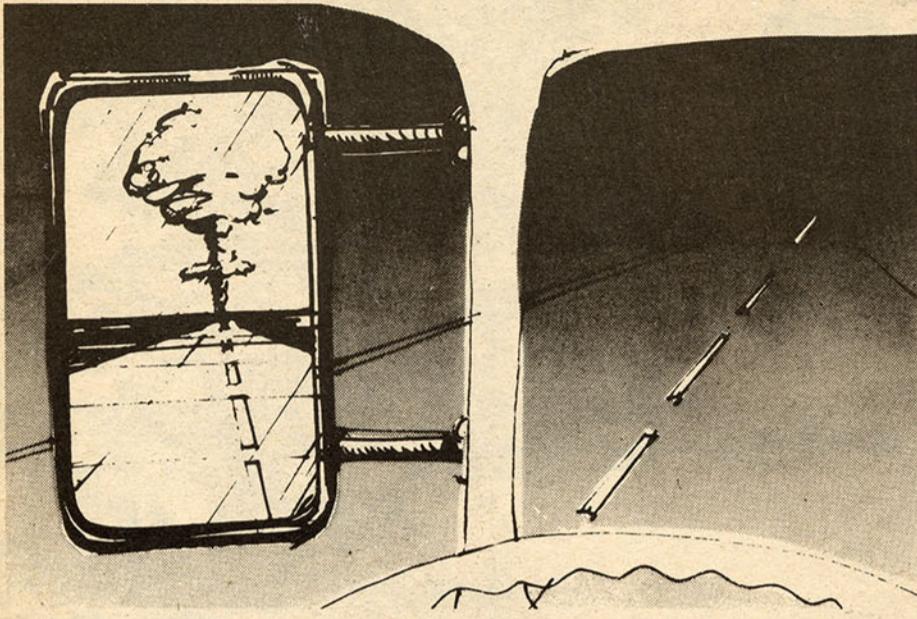


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AROUND TOWN

Drawing by Roger Zeman



The attraction of the U-M.

The University of Michigan has attracted many fine things to the Ann Arbor community—numerous concerts, many brainy people, private research outfits, the list could go on and on. Recently, we learned of yet another possible U-M-inspired attraction: a nuclear-tipped missile delivered all the way from the U.S.S.R. According to the Department of Defense, Ann Arbor is one of 400 probable Russian targets in the U.S., the reason being that the U-M is a primary defense contractor.

The person in Michigan whose job it is to deal with a nuclear attack is Ted Zale, a supervisor in the Nuclear Civil Protection Section of the Michigan State Police.

Zale's soft spoken manner contrasts sharply with his serious words, as he speaks from his small office located across the street from the Lansing Capitol Building. Zale is one of 145 professional planners who work with the Department of Defense (DOD) on Crisis Relocation Planning.

Crisis Relocation Planning (CRP) is "an effort to develop plans to relocate people from larger cities and other possible risk areas during a crisis that could escalate to a nuclear attack on this country," in DOD words. It is an evacuation plan, though the word evacuation was deliberately omitted, states Zale, because it was thought to evoke panic in people.

A team from Zale's office will be com-

ing to Ann Arbor sometime after October 1, 1979, to discuss the city's Crisis Relocation Plans with local officials.

Major Walt Hawkins of the Ann Arbor Police Department is in charge of the city's Office of Disaster Preparedness. Should there be a national crisis, a mandate to evacuate would come from the U.S. President down to state governors. From the Michigan Governor's Office word would come to Hawkins' office and to Daniel Harsh, Washtenaw County Preparedness Director.

The population of Ann Arbor would then be relocated by means of public and private transportation to areas designated in Washtenaw County as "host areas" (or non-risk areas). Fallout protection, food, etc. would be arranged for in the host areas by local crisis relocation planners.

When the CRP team comes to Ann Arbor, they will help local officials develop the specifics for relocating city residents. They will also conduct exercises and drills for the officials based on a simulated crisis.

The DOD has been working with state groups on crisis relocation planning since 1976. The fact that the U.S.S.R. has had a national evacuation plan since the mid-1960's, as have several European countries, such as Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland, has pushed this country in the direction of what used to be called "civil defense".

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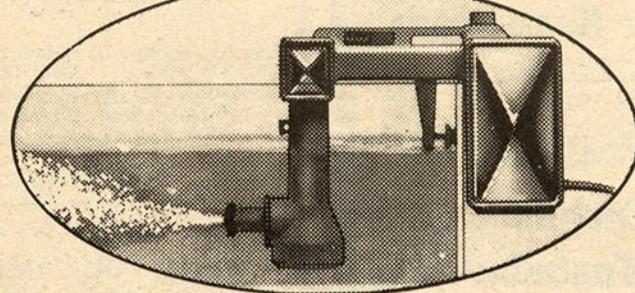
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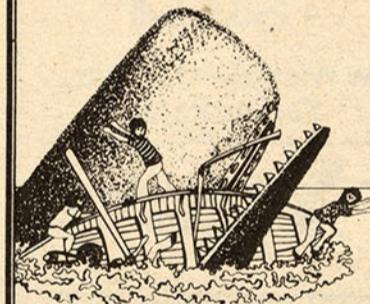
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AROUND TOWN/continued



Rich Ahern's sketch of the Dalai Lama's monastery nestled in the Himalayas.

A visit with the Dalai Lama.

The Dalai Lama is coming to town early this October. He'll be giving a talk, sponsored by a coalition of U-M and community groups, "The Buddhist Way to World Peace: Meditation and Altruistic Commitment" at 4 p.m., October 7, at Hill Auditorium.

The Tibetan holy man's visit to the city occurs seven years after the invitation of Ann Arbor architect Rich Ahern, who in 1972 visited the Dalai Lama in India. Ahern's visit was prompted by an article he read stating that the Dalai Lama wanted to visit the United States and had a special interest in world peace, an interest Ahern shared. So while on a relief mission to Bangladesh, Ahern made a detour to the remote Indian village of Dharamsala, where the Dalai Lama lives in exile, to extend an invitation.

Back in the Fifties, the Chinese invaded and conquered Tibet, ultimately causing the Dalai Lama to flee to India. Since the Chinese occupation, the Tibetan's indigenous Buddhist practices have been suppressed. During the United States' recent diplomatic courtship with China, the U.S. State Department has denied the Dalai Lama's repeated requests to visit our country, fearing that a visit would offend the Chinese. Apparently the Dalai Lama's recent permission to enter the U.S. is tied to American assurances to China that we respect China's sovereignty over Tibet. American recognition of Chinese sovereignty over a nation conquered by naked aggression, Ahern points out,

reveals just how deep President Carter's commitment is to human rights.

In chatting with Ahern, we asked what it was like to visit the Dalai Lama in his home in Dharamsala. "It was really terrific meeting him," he told us. "I was coming in one end of the room and he was coming in from the other end, and he had his arms outstretched and a great big smile on his face, and we had a four-handed Tibetan handshake. It was the warmest handshake one could imagine. When you do this, you look in each other's eyes, and it was just like I sunk in. He had nothing on his mind. He wasn't trying to psyche me out. He was totally receptive. There was no aura about him at all. The first thing I did was laugh out loud, I was so happy being there with him. I was so at ease. Every word I spoke came out perfectly. I've never met anyone quite like that. I felt as happy that day as I ever have."

During this visit with the Dalai Lama, Ahern invited him to Ann Arbor. Now, at the price of American recognition of Chinese sovereignty over Tibet, the visit is possible.

Preceding the Dalai Lama's 4 p.m. October 7 appearance at Hill Auditorium, he will be attending a workshop sponsored by Synthesis entitled, "Toward a People's Paradigm for Peace." At the workshop, representatives of various Ann Arbor groups dedicated to non-violent means for attaining world peace will share their work with the Dalai Lama.

October's weather.

October is usually the first post-summer month in Ann Arbor that the mercury dips below 32 degrees. Chances are 50-50 that it will freeze before October 21, although the probability is only 10% before October 3. By the end of the month, there is an 80% chance of frost some time in the month.

As for rain, the trend since June for less and less rain continues, an average

amount being about 2.3 inches for the entire month. Back in 1954, however, Ann Arbor had 2.85 inches of rain in a single day and 7.29 inches for the month.

Average October temperature highs in Ann Arbor are about 64 degrees, down ten degrees from September average highs. A typical low is 44 degrees, also a ten degree drop from September.

Where the wild things are.

Which of the following statements about wild edible plants are true?

- 1 - If it prickles your mouth, it's bad for you.
- 2 - Plants that animals and birds eat are O.K.
- 3 - Mulberries are inedible.
- 4 - If it tarnishes a silver spoon, don't eat it.
- 5 - All plants with blue berries are edible.

If you answered "true" on number two, you're wrong: birds eat poison ivy berries. A "true" response on "five" might lead directly to the bathroom: many blue berries are quite cathartic. In fact, all five statements are false—generalizations that Ann Arbor naturalist Ellen Weatherbee hears frequently in her courses in Edible Wild Plants at the U-M.

Weatherbee gives no exams in her courses. She tells her students that if she sees them next week, she'll know they found the right plant. Her newly-published book, authored with former colleague James Bruce, is a handy guide for would-be foragers anxious to avoid Elvira Madigan pitfalls.

Edible Wild Plants of the Great Lakes Region, available locally at bookstores and camping stores for \$4.95, is a product of Weatherbee's and Bruce's many years of teaching experience. Its text not only describes the plants but provides drying and freezing instructions as well as easy recipes for cooking. Pictures highlight the identifying features of the plants, as well as those of inedible or poisonous look-alikes.

Because the book is based on the authors' Ann Arbor gathering experiences, it authoritatively singles out all the local

"deadringers" to avoid. Wild grape and its nearly identical and poisonous twin, moonseed, for example, are often found intertwined. (Moonseed is distinguished from grape by its single, flat, crescent-shaped seed.)

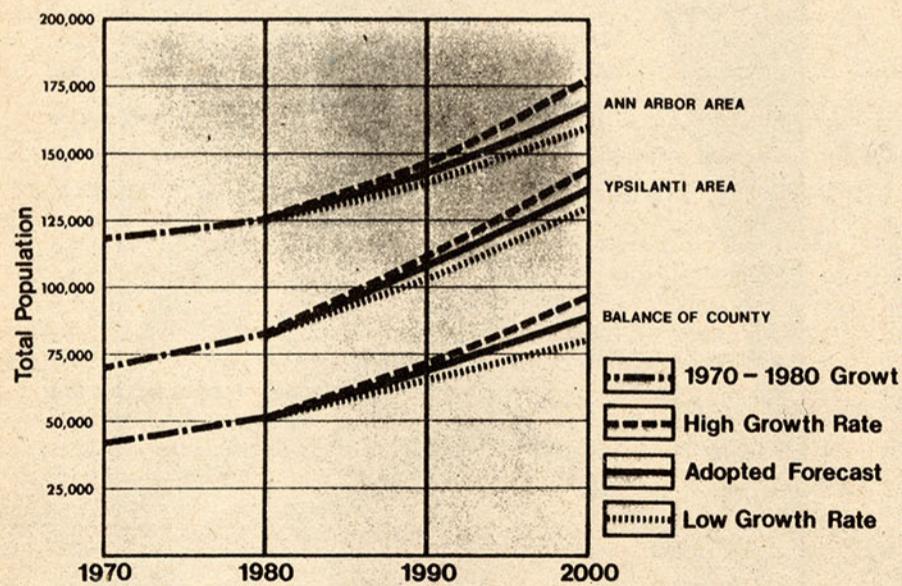
Weatherbee points out that many delectable plants are most visible at times when they are not edible. With the aid of her guidebook, you can take notes one season and return to pick at the correct time.

The Ann Arbor area represents pretty good pickin's, Weatherbee told us in a recent chat in her herb-filled office at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens. She notes that Ann Arbor is a border area, a transition zone between the southern and northern Great Lakes regions, where you can find such northerly treats as cranberries (try the Waterloo recreation area, where they'll even give you directions) and blueberries, as well as "southern" delicacies like the pawpaw (try Georgetown subdivision), a fruit with a custardy orange pulp with the tang of the tropics.

Particular October treats include the above-mentioned cranberries, good throughout the winter, Jerusalem artichokes, and sumac, whose red-plumed heads make good tea. Now might be a good time to spot the fall yellow of the feathery asparagus plant, with an eye to next spring's harvest. Take a look near the corner of Dixboro and Plymouth for an example.

And finally, our many local black walnut trees let loose an October bounty of green-hulled nuts for the grabbing. To remove the hull, Weatherbee recommends using a modern tool: run them over with your car.

122,955 Ann Arborites in 2000 A.D.



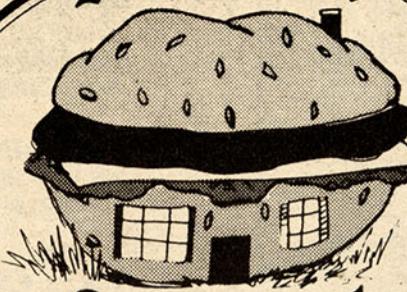
The Washtenaw County Metropolitan Planning Commission has come up with a new set of predictions for population growth within the county. Its last estimates were in 1973, a rosier period economically than our current time, and these predictions have already proven to be on the high side.

Within the Ann Arbor city limits, the current population is about 104,000. The planners now predict this figure to rise to

114,245 by 1990 and 122,955 by the year 2000—hardly a spectacular population boom.

But there's going to be a lot more growth within the Ann Arbor area, which the planners define as Ann Arbor City, Barton Hills, and Ann Arbor, Pittsfield, and Scio Townships. The Ann Arbor area population today is about 126,000 but it is supposed to climb to almost 170,000 by the year 2000.

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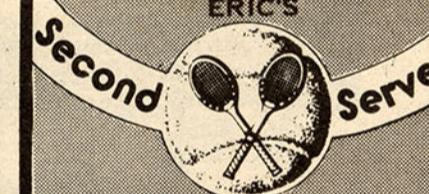
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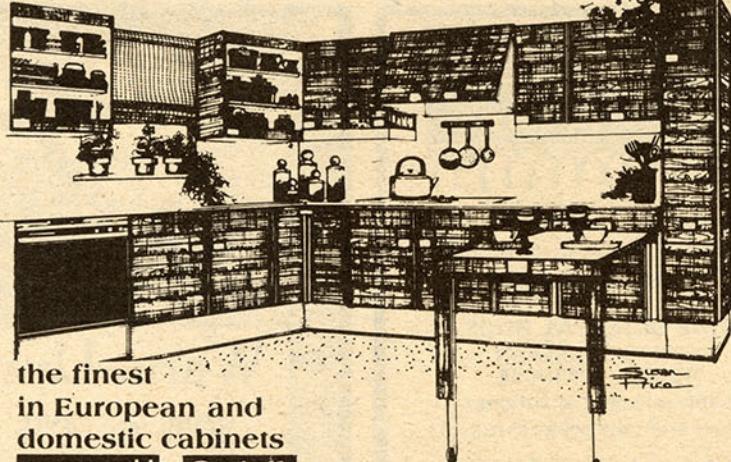
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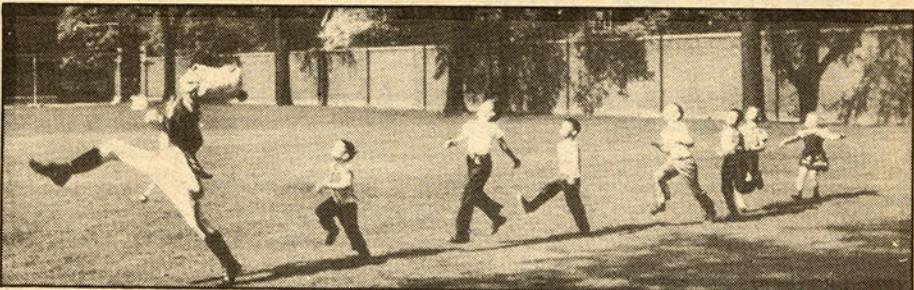
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AROUND TOWN/continued



The effect of a famous photo.

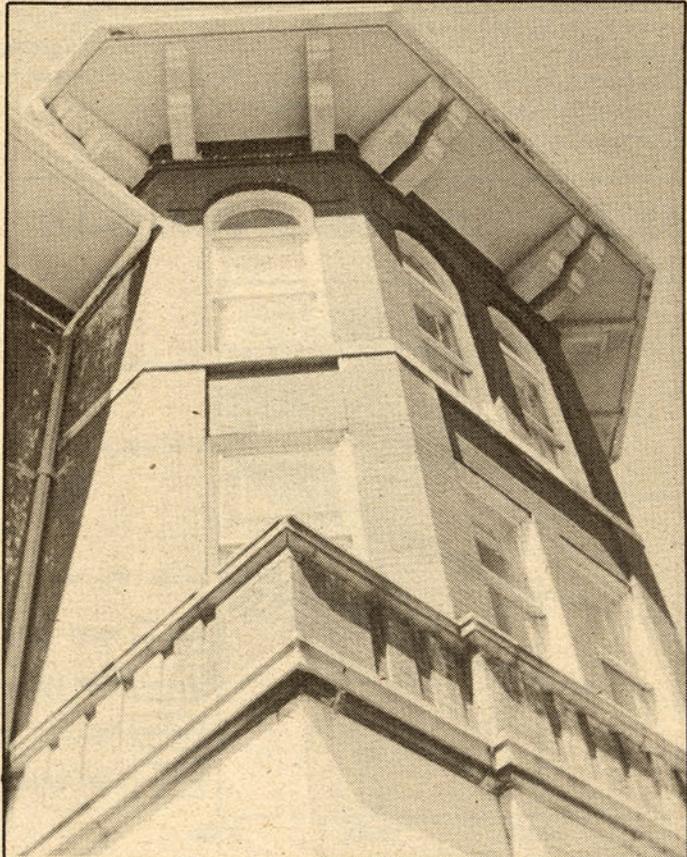
Our cover photo last month—Alfred Eisenstaedt's 1950 shot for *Life* of Ann Arbor kids mimicking the U-M drum major—has had a surprising effect. We have received positive identification for about 20 young children said to appear in the photo. One call was from an earnest sounding mother who moved to Ann Arbor two years after the photo was taken. She insisted two of her sons were in the photo. Another call was from an auto mechanic, age 47, who says he was definitely the boy just behind the drum major, although we have pretty good evidence that not he, but another boy, was the person caught by Eisenstaedt's lens that fall day.

We suspect that these errors of memory are due to two factors. First, the scene Eisenstaedt captured on film wasn't that

uncommon. For years, it was a common pastime for the kids around Dewey Street to watch and follow around the U-M band during practice. Second, Eisenstaedt, who wandered upon the scene unexpectedly, didn't have time to focus properly. There is a slightly ambiguous look to kids in the picture, explaining why so many have seen themselves or their children in the photo.

Anyway, we *think* we have found out who the kids really are. From the left: Eugene Waxman, now working with computers at U-M; Carl Belemeyer; Jamie Robertson, a resident of San Jose for 14 years; James Williams, in the Navy on the West Coast; John ("Jack") Williams, a production supervisor for Applied Dynamics International, a local computer firm; Laurie McGregor, and Julie Mann.

Test of the Town.



If you know the location of this month's mystery photo, you have a chance to win a record of your choice from the Liberty Music Shop, 417 East Liberty. Send your answer, including your name and address, to "Test of the Town," Ann Arbor Observer, 206 South Main, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. Entries should be postmarked no later than October 5. No hand deliveries, please. Two winners

will be drawn by lot from the pool of correct answers and notified by mail.

Last month's Test of the Town was identified correctly by over fifty people. It was the cupola of the University Church of the Nazarene at 409 South Division, originally built as the Christian Science church. Jan Nordman and Nina Young were the winners.

—Bob Breck

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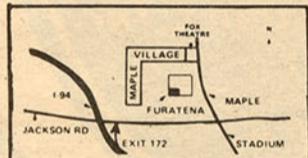
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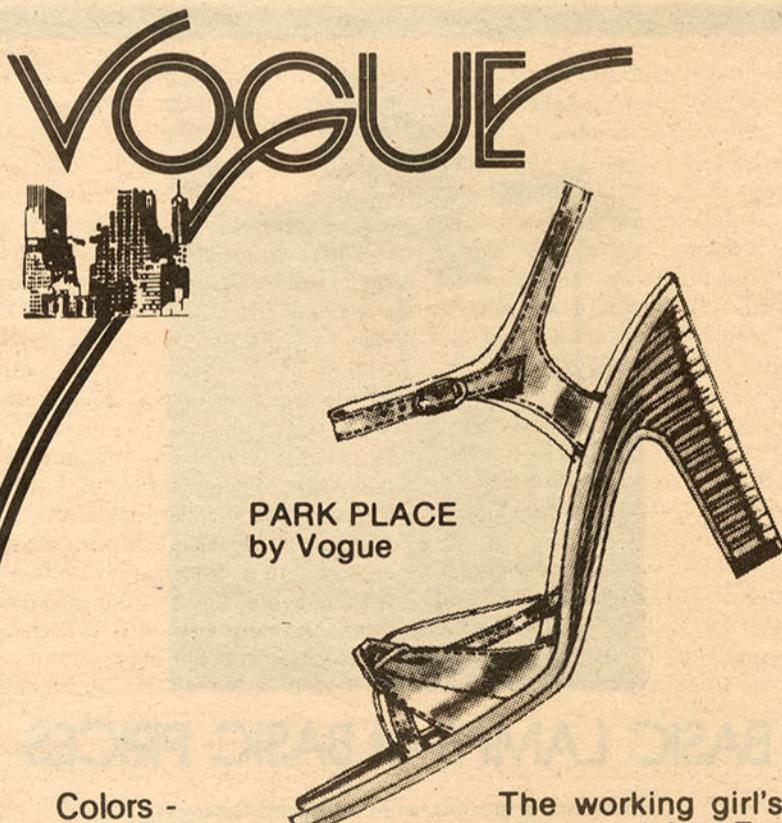
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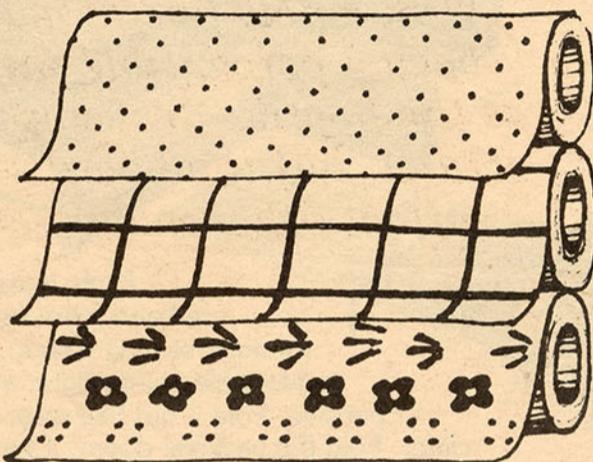
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A New Direction for Ann Arbor Schools?

With a new liberal majority on the school board, there has been a perceptible shift in policy making. Most noticeable is the board's decision not to appeal the court's Black English verdict, but the board's more liberal composition will probably affect other major school decisions in the months ahead.

Part Two

By ANNE REMLEY



last month the *Observer* looked at the contrast between two Ann Arbor school superintendents—the flamboyant Philadelphian, Bruce McPherson (1971 - 73), and his successor, long-time Michigan educator Harry Howard, who is current superintendent.

McPherson swept into town on the tide of late-Sixties local and national turbulence. Students were marching in the hallways of local schools, trashing, demonstrating and demanding student rights and school reforms. Parents, too, were asking for change. Hired as a change agent to make the schools more orderly and responsive, McPherson moved fast. He diversified the system by starting optional high school and elementary programs and by inviting teachers, parents, and students to make decisions and plans in their own schools and classrooms.

McPherson's rapid and dramatic reforms led to a good deal of confusion and criticism, and provoked a devastating conservative backlash. McPherson chose not to stay and fight. In 1973, two years after he had come to town, he moved on, taking an executive job in Chicago.

The schoolboard then put the system in the hands of Harry Howard, a low-key, steady, hard-working fiscal specialist—a "nuts and bolts man," board members said with satisfaction. A succession of conservative boards has worked with Howard to reestablish centralized curricular control. They reinstated a more orderly, sequential approach for teachers to follow and increased consistency among courses, classrooms and schools.

Then last June, liberals unexpectedly swept all three seats in the schoolboard election for the first time in 15 years. Lana Pollack, John Powell, and incumbent Kathy Dannemiller joined Donna

Wegryn and Joseph Vaughn on the board, giving liberals the 5 - 4 majority they had lost in June, 1971, at the time of McPherson's arrival.

The liberals' victory explained

Behind the liberal sweep this last June were the campaigning efforts of two groups, the teachers and the liberals.

Ann Arbor teachers generally applaud the trend in recent years toward more coordination of curriculum, but some have felt that the conservative board has over-reacted to the flexibility and diversity McPherson introduced into the school system. In the opinion of Dave Harrell, executive director of the teachers' union, the conservatives and Harry Howard have carried centralized decision-making too far, losing essential "respect for teachers' professional judgment" about how best to meet the needs of their own students. Harrell says teachers also complain of generally poor working relations with the board and administration, which he accuses of "mechanical management of people that has been demoralizing to teachers."

As last June's election rolled around, teachers decided to seek a change of direction. The Representative Council of the teachers' union endorsed three liberal candidates who seemed sympathetic to more diversity among teaching methods and subject matter. The fact that all three board candidates were liberals was not what caused the union endorsement, Harrell says. Over past years, the teachers' union has endorsed both conservatives and liberals.

Union leaders and teachers carried out a strenuous pre-election mailing and phoning campaign. Their efforts played a key role in handing the election to Dannemiller, Pollack, and Powell.

The liberal trio received a second key endorsement from the Committee for a

Progressive School Board (CPSB). The committee is a collection of liberals who coalesce before each spring election around school-related issues they summarize as "the diverse needs of the children in our school system."

In Ann Arbor, school board liberals and conservatives don't differ greatly from each other in their candidacy platforms and their day-to-day working positions. Over the years, many members of both groups have considered themselves middle-of-the-road moderates. Both support "the basics," balanced budgets, and good schooling for all children. It's their emphasis that differs—what they'd walk a second mile for.

With conservatives the emphasis is on orderly consistency, with liberals it's the needs of people who are disadvantaged or "different." Conservatives look for standardized learning systems and expect most students and teachers to operate within them. Liberals are more eager to tinker with the system, adapting it to meet the needs of widely diverse students, parents, and teachers.

I called CPSB's Bob Alexander, administrative aide to Senator Ed Pierce, to ask his explanation of the liberal sweep. Alexander told me, "The conservatives did not have a unified campaign where the country club set and the Republican folks in City Hall agree on two or three candidates. The difference this year was that the CPSB and the teachers both supported the same three candidates. This was the first time that had happened." He adds, "When the two committees realized this, they decided to work together. All our folks got a consistent message of who to vote for. There was a low turnout, but it was consistent" throughout the voting precincts.

As Alexander points out, the turnout was low last June 11. Only 7,700 people went to the polls, just 8.6% of the registered voters. There have been low turnouts in the last several board elections, the lowest in 1976 when Kathy Danne-

miller and two conservatives, Paul Weinhold and Terry Martin, were elected by just 6.6% of the voters. That election broke the previous low turnout record established in 1962 when only 2,200 people put three liberal candidates in office.

Analysis of school board election trends shows that there was a fairly low-voting liberal-dominated plateau back in the quieter days of the early to mid-Sixties, interrupted only by an occasional hotly contested millage battle, as in 1963 when Huron High School was funded. In the late Sixties more people began to vote—both more liberals and conservatives. Voting totals rose to about 40% of the registered voters in '67 - '69, years that were nearly a stand-off between conservative and liberal winners. During the McPherson years, the turnout was already falling.

The dwindling percentage of registered voters who have turned out during the Seventies is tempered a bit by the fact that a greater percentage of Ann Arborites are registered these days. Since 1971, state law has enabled U-M students to register as local voters, although they often don't vote in Ann Arbor school elections. And since 1975, drivers license applicants may register easily, as well.

Nevertheless, both the numbers and the percentages plummeted in 1976 when 5,500 people voted (6.6%). Totals stayed low in 1978 and '79 when liberals finally won their victory.

The liberals' dilemma

The teachers and parents who worked for the liberal shift in the board last June were looking for greater classroom flexibility, better working relationships with the board and more responsiveness to diverse students' needs. The dilemma that now faces the board's five liberals is how to move on those issues without sacrificing the values of the many people in the community who have supported conserva-

tive boards for eight years—the values of fiscal responsibility, consistency, and what last year's president John Heald approvingly describes as a "cautious, carefully considered style."

New board president, Kathy Dannemiller, believes the key to the liberals' dilemma lies in "group process." Dannemiller is a management consultant by training and a career specialist in bringing diverse groups together under the aegis of her boss, U-M Vice President for Student Affairs, Henry Johnson. Dannemiller believes the divided board can have a productive and unified year, if they work out some procedures and get some experience in working together instead of at cross-purposes.

Early in September at Dannemiller's urging, board members met with their senior administrators in the Tillie Slowboy room of the Marriott Inn for a shirt-sleeve, eight-hour Sunday marathon of goal-setting. They were joined by Dick Taylor, president of the teachers' union; Lynn Johnson, PTO Council president; and Mary Duggan, representative of the Student Advocate School Board and president of the senior class at Huron High School.

With the relaxed help of pipe-smoking U-M professor Allen Menlo, the group spent eight hours and two meals working under the golden light of Marriott-style Old English chandeliers. They plastered the textured yellow vinyl wall covering with sheets of newsprint on which were written goals, "helps and hindrances," and advice the participants had given themselves. Among the admonitions were: "Don't compartmentalize others." "Listen empathically." "Establish harmonious working relations in the face of divisive philosophical positions."

Both conservatives and liberals liked Dannemiller's goal-setting day. A second was set for a late September look at racial imbalance. And a third was planned for mid-October to consider board members' varied educational philosophies. Patti Cerny says Dannemiller is playing a wel-

come role in working for unity: "With the right kind of leadership, we can mesh our diversity of backgrounds on the board." As Donna Wegryn puts it, "We should be able to find strength in our diversity."

But the conservatives will be torn. Some of them will be tempted to keep the pot boiling all year so they can rouse the somnolent conservative voters' attention and win back control of the board next June.

The issues this year are thorny ones in themselves—the volatile racial balance issue, a controversial reorganization of the five intermediate schools, a look at the dwindling educational diversity of the system, and the issue that may not go away, Black English. Interviews with board members and administrators provide the following summary of the major issues facing the board of education in the coming months.

The Black English controversy: a troubling legacy?

Have the sharp divisions that surfaced over the Black English issue caused an irreconcilable rift between Harry Howard and the liberals, a rift that may sour conservative-liberal working relationships on the board? Will this issue increase community discord during the upcoming discussion of racial imbalance in the school system? These are the residual issues that follow in the wake of the stormy Black English controversy.

The controversy first came to public attention in 1977 when the parents of eleven black children from Martin Luther King Elementary School on the east side of Ann Arbor filed suit against the Ann Arbor schools in Federal District Court. The lawsuit claimed that the school system had not taken appropriate action to overcome the language barrier



Superintendent Howard is clearly upset with the board's final decision not to appeal, and it may well provoke his departure. One trustee commented, "This is the first time I've seen Howard so unwilling to drop an issue and go on."

that arises from teachers' lack of essential information about the Black English dialect in teaching low-income, black children to read.

The Black English suit rises out of a classic case of parents and a school system seeing a situation very differently. Ruth Zweifler, coordinator of the Student Advocacy Center (SAC) says that it started with the pooled perceptions of Black neighbors who lived in the Green Road public housing development. They felt that their children who attended the 80% white King School, were being treated unfairly and were not progressing academically at a pace warranted by their abilities. Most of the children were reading several years behind their grade level. Over several years the parents voiced these concerns to other neighbors, school and church personnel, and staff members of the SAC. The Advocacy Center is a local, largely volunteer agency. Zweifler says it tries to help students and parents who are having problems deal effectively with administrators, counselors, and teachers. She says that in the King School situation, letters and meetings were unable to resolve the problems and that the parents turned reluctantly to litigation.

Teachers and administrators felt that the parents were incorrect in their perceptions of unfair treatment. In fact, they saw themselves as trying to provide extra help for the youngsters, help that the parents sometimes rejected, saying it constituted tracking, separating the children from their classmates, and labeling them

inappropriately.

The parents' original suit, filed in July of 1977, cited five "causes of action" in addition to the Black English problem. These dealt with a much weightier matter, the charge that the Ann Arbor schools failed to take into account cultural, social, and economic differences between poor, black children and the other children who attend King School.

Some administrators were angered by the abrasive and accusatory tone of SAC communications, and one school board member suspected the Center had worked actively at "recruiting" the parents and convincing students that racial prejudice against them existed in the school, a theory Zweifler emphatically denies. Such charges illustrate the enormous gap in communication and trust that separate school system personnel from the black King School parents and their supporters.

The case was assigned to Federal District Court Judge Charles Joiner, long-time Ann Arbor resident, former U-M Law School professor, and Republican city councilman in the late Fifties—a man with a reputation as a strong-minded conservative. Joiner threw the parents' entire case out of court, except for the Black English complaint, a complaint which ironically was not the parents' central concern. Nonetheless, the Black English case has become a national educational issue.

The basic position of the school system's attorneys was that the Black English charge should have been dismissed

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as well. They cited numerous reasons why the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974 did not apply in this case. For example, they said the law speaks of a "language barrier" not in reference to a mere dialect, but to English spoken as a second language by Chicano children or by Chinese children in San Francisco.

One of the lingering controversies about the case is that the school system's lawyers never mounted a defense beyond this basic position. While the plaintiffs presented an impressive array of educators and linguistic experts, the school system's lawyers presented no witnesses. They again stated simply that the Federal law did not apply to the King School situation and added that the plaintiffs had not shown that the teachers or school system had violated the law. They asked for dismissal of the claim.

In July, 1979, Judge Joiner handed down his opinion. He said that he saw the King School situation as part of a major dilemma that is troubling U.S. education these days. Many black children leave school unable to read well enough to enter into the establishment—the world of business, professions, arts, and government. Joiner said that Congress had addressed this problem in the Equal Educational Opportunities Act. In that law, Congress asks school systems to equalize educational opportunity by making schools more effective.

Joiner said he was persuaded by the expert witnesses supplied by the plaintiffs that one factor that may well be holding many black children back from learning to read fluently is what the law calls "a language barrier." Joiner says that this barrier arises when teachers fail to recognize that many low-income, black students grow up speaking a special dialect, Black English, in their homes and with their friends. When teaching children to read conventional written English, teachers need to be aware of and informed about the grammar and syntax of the children's home dialect. In addition, teachers need to show positive regard for the children's home dialect, the one they will continue to use with mother and friends, not discounting it in any way. They need to help the children build their working knowledge of the Standard English in textbooks upon the firm base of their own complex and respected language.

While the King School teachers explained in court that they tried to treat all children alike, the judge found that the plaintiff children were, in fact, dif-

ferent. Joiner also found no evidence that the Ann Arbor schools had given the teachers specialized information about the two crucial matters—the intricacies of the children's home language and how to take it into account when teaching the children to read. He said that any teacher's lack of awareness of these matters would create a language barrier that would seriously impede children's learning. The judge concluded that the system and the teachers had done much that was helpful. The problem lay in what they had not done: they had not taken "rational and logical" steps to overcome the language barrier as required by the law. He said there might well be additional causes and cures for the children's reading difficulties, but that this was one both he and the school system should and could tackle.

Upon receiving the judge's decision this past July, schoolboard members met with their attorneys in a closed-door session to consider what course of action they should take. Following the strong recommendations of school system administrators and attorneys, board members voted 5-4 to appeal the ruling, with liberal Kathy Dannemiller joining the board's four conservatives to form the majority. When the closed board session was questioned for possible violation of the Michigan "Sunshine" laws, a special Saturday meeting was called to hear from the public and to vote again on the issue.

Before the next vote on whether to appeal Joiner's decision, Dannemiller was besieged with phone calls from citizens pleading with her to switch her vote. During a steamy Saturday afternoon session, board members heard conservatives and liberals fervently argue the pros and cons of appeal. Then, in a dramatic reversal, Dannemiller changed her vote, joining her four liberal colleagues to make a 5-4 majority against appealing the judge's decision.

The administration developed, and Judge Joiner quickly accepted, a King School plan for handling the Black English problem. It called for an inservice program to brief teachers on the intricacies of dialects and attitudinal factors. It placed extra reading specialists and administrators at the school's disposal. And it bore a price tag of over \$40,000.

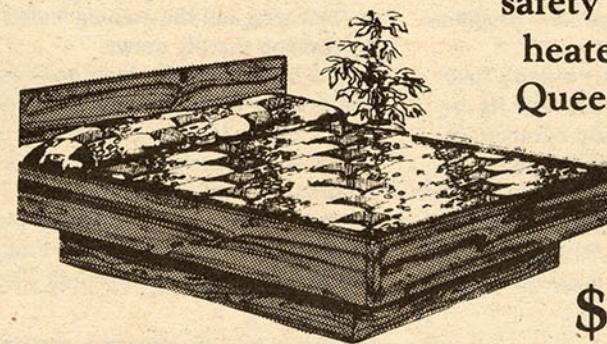
Howard felt the board had made a serious mistake. He urged it to reconsider and vote for appeal before the October 1 final deadline. Howard and conservatives said the Appeals Court would recognize, as Joiner had failed to do, that the Federal

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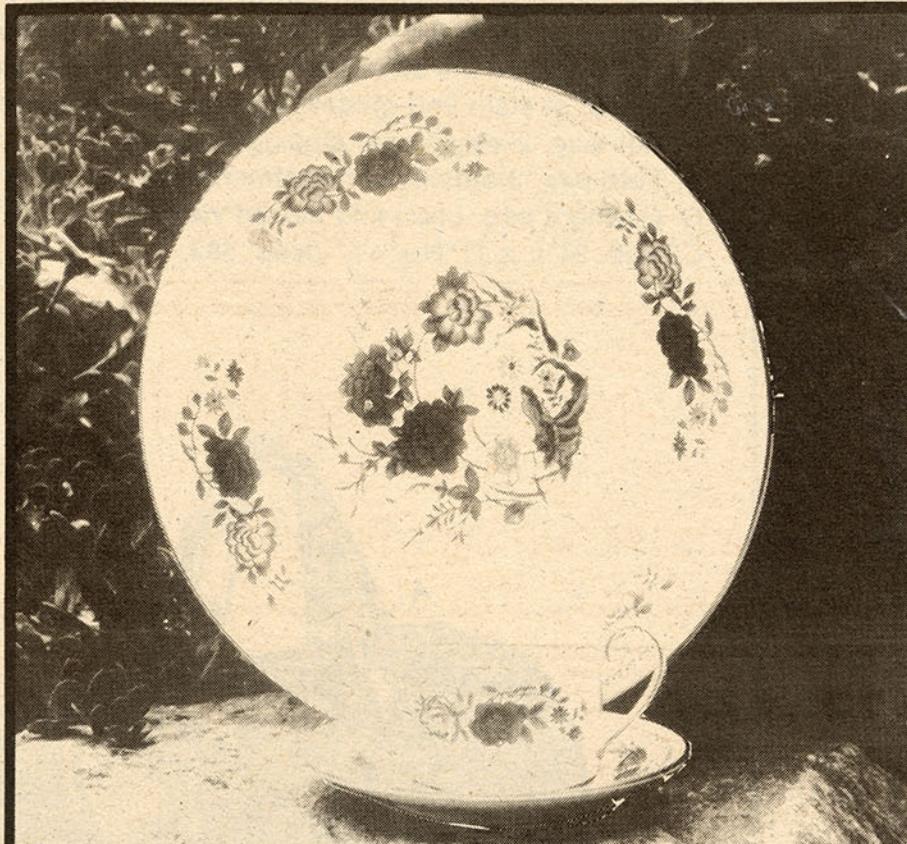
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law does not apply to Black English. They said the decision was an improper judicial infringement into education with a national spin-off: thousands of schools throughout America may now be sued by plaintiffs demanding specialized help for dialect-speaking children. They described the decision as muddy and open-ended—an "endless tunnel" of litigation—and just plain wrong. They doubted that Black English had anything to do with children's reading problems. The plan is expensive in one school: try to contemplate it on a national scale. They pointed out that little is really known for sure about how any children learn to read and claimed that no proven, surefire method has been developed and field-tested that aims specifically at children who speak Black English. Other school districts have tried and abandoned expensive programs in that area.

In the week before the board's final session about whether to reverse its decision, Howard argued more forcefully than ever to appeal. He addressed a crowded meeting in King School to explain the case and outline the plan, describing in eloquent terms the case for appeal.

At an unusual social occasion on the

Friday evening before the final board vote on the topic, Howard, the teachers' union and the board jointly hosted an informal backyard buffet at Howard's home for the King School teachers, board members, union representatives, and administrators. It was intended to start a process of "healing, sharing, and looking to the future." Dannemiller addressed the assembled group in Howard's basement, inviting the teachers to share their feelings. She knew the King staff was upset and felt, "Sometimes you have to open the wound before it can heal." The teachers emotionally urged liberals to change their votes. In response, all the board members expressed their regard and concern for the teachers, but the liberals said they could not support appeal. Conservatives and administrators strongly agreed with the teachers, and the evening ended with the division sharply drawn.

The liberals held to their position. Their stance is that we are dealing here with a serious local and national problem — how to make schools work better for children who are poor and black. They argue that it's well worth making a plan and investing some extra money to look for a way to help children who speak Black

English learn Standard English well. While Howard sees it as an unwarranted intrusion when a judge tells the Ann Arbor School System that it must try to better educate its low-income black students, liberal board members claim that courts have appropriately and traditionally intervened when schools needed to improve their service to students. *Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education* is a notable example. The current case does not assure that all the schools in America must follow Ann Arbor's lead. Rather, it represents one judge's decision in one specific instance.

Another argument against appeal is economic. The costs of appeal would also have been considerable. The case might well have gone as far as the U.S. Supreme Court, since the Federal Appeals Court in Cincinnati has a very liberal reputation and would likely uphold Judge Joiner's decision.

Finally, dropping the case would let the much needed healing process begin in the community, liberals said.

Liberals held fast to these views through another barrage of phone calls and a final, intense meeting in mid-September. Conservative activist Wendy

Raeder presented petitions from 700 people, and numerous partisans on both sides of the issue spoke with conviction. The vote again was a liberal-conservative split, 5-4 not to appeal. And so the issue was laid to uneasy rest. Howard commented, "I don't agree with the decision. But as long as I work for the board, I implement their policies."

The superintendent is clearly upset with the board's final decision not to appeal, and it may well provoke his departure. One trustee commented, "This is the first time I've seen Howard so unwilling to drop an issue and go on."

When I asked if the board's refusal to appeal might incline him to leave Ann Arbor, Howard told me, "It may or may not. I don't think a superintendent can stay in a post where he's out of step with the board. I wouldn't want to stay any place where I'm not advancing things." Howard refused to comment directly on rumors that he is sending out resumes, looking for another job, "I'm not making an announcement," he said, but added, "I've had a number of options. I want to keep them open."

It will be interesting to see what Howard's final reaction will be and

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whether conservatives do keep the topic alive during the winter. Privately, conservative board members said the Black English issue will rise again next June at election time. One commented reprovingly that this issue has shown that the liberals care more about "social objectives and larger social issues" than appropriate educational matters. Looking ahead with trepidation to the racial imbalance issue, conservative board member Peter Wright said, "We're getting off to a lousy start."

Racial balance: the enduring problem

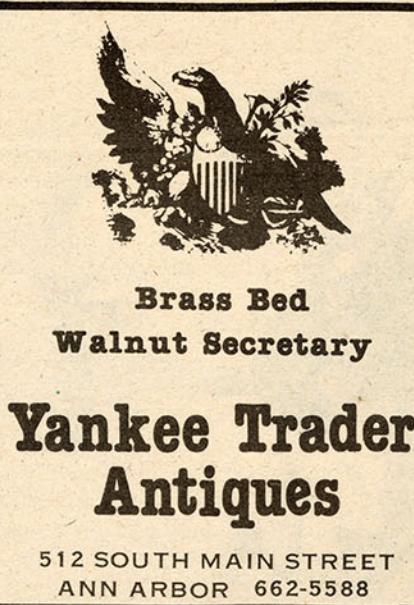
Just as potentially volatile as the Black English controversy is the issue of whether the school system should move kids in order to improve the racial balance across Ann Arbor schools. Failure to do so could cause another lawsuit that potentially could leave the whole system operating under a restrictive and onerous court order to adjust racial percentages.

The issue emerged in the spring of 1978, when John Porter, then head of the State Board of Education, sent Harry Howard a letter pointing out that six local elementary schools are racially "imbalanced" in violation of State Board guidelines. Mack, Bryant and Northside elementary schools have over 15% more black students than the black percentage in the district as a whole, while Freeman, Lakewood, and Newport are racially "imbalanced" with white students.

As a result of Porter's letter, the school board somewhat reluctantly set up a mammoth 59-member Advisory Committee to "recommend alternative strategies" to improve racial balance and "increase educational opportunity and success" in district schools.

Some members of the advisory committee suggested that the board might consider disregarding the state guidelines, believing the matter is unlikely to land it in Court. Or the board might try to win an exemption from the guidelines, as Battle Creek has done. Instead of moving students around, Battle Creek is implementing a major educational improvement plan and a plan to change racially differentiated housing patterns in the city.

If the board does not come up with an adequate solution to the problem of its racially imbalanced schools, it risks being taken to court for violation of the U.S. Constitution. The famous Supreme Court decision of 1954, *Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education*, and later federal cases have established that school boards may not intentionally separate school children solely on the basis of race or color. Even though federal courts are requiring greater evidence of intent before such segregation is deemed unlawful, these days school boards are losing such cases more often than they are winning them. The Ann Arbor board may be vulnerable to such a suit on several grounds. In the early Seventies, it built Bryant School on the southeast side with a foreseeably sizable minority population. The board has also continued a pattern of opening and running "identifiably white" schools like Lakewood, Freeman, and Newport on the edge of town. Finally, the board has failed to redraw school boundaries over the years to mitigate racial imbalance. A succession of board advisory committees has turned in written reports pointing out that these actions would foreseeably in-



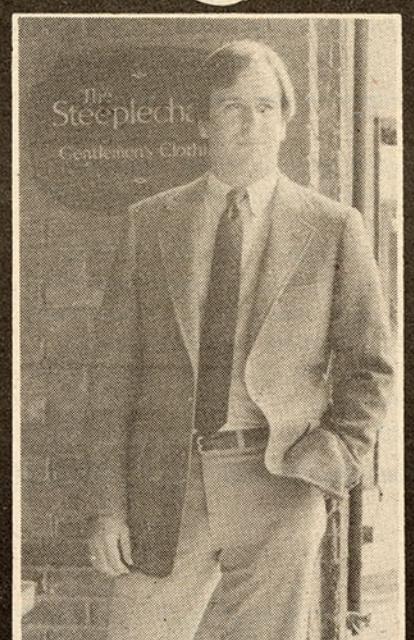
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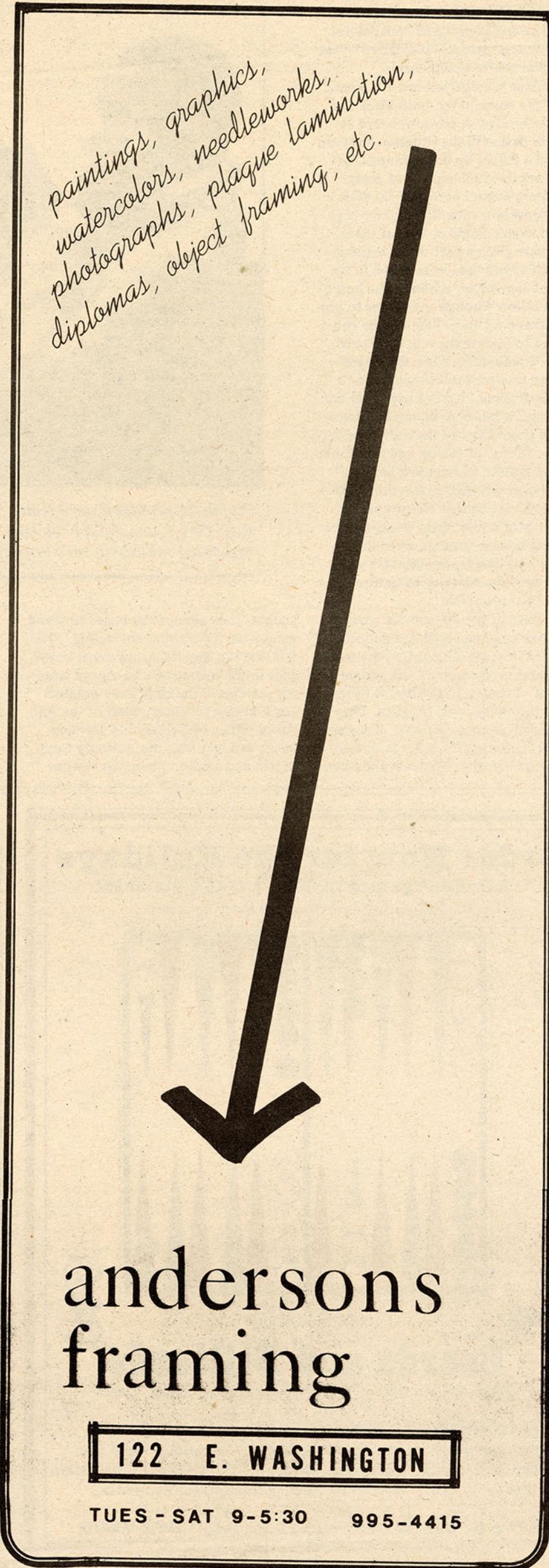


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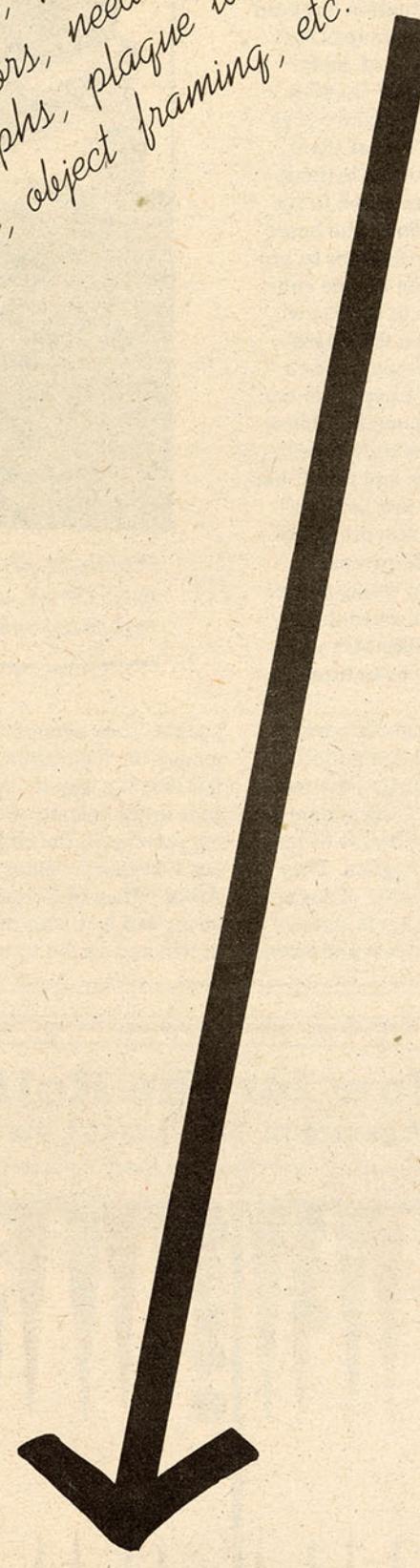


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crease racial imbalance. Does this series of events show evidence of "purposeful intent" to segregate schoolchildren? That is what the courts would decide.

The issue is a difficult one for members of the community, both black and white, to resolve. A previous board attempt to deal with the situation has been declared a failure by both groups. That action was the 1965 closing of Jones Elementary School on North Division Street (now home for Community High School). Jones children, 75% of them black, were given a year of educational preparation and then were bused to six different elementary schools. The board did not follow through with plans to provide extra educational help for the children and to involve them in their new school communities. When the Board proposed to repeat this process and to close Mack School in the early Seventies, Mack parents rebelled, saying that black children should not be the only ones to bear the burden of change and that it had proven a hollow exercise just to move kids without positive, multi-ethnic programs and basic school improvements.

The board is now again trying to face the racial balance issue. It scheduled a "retreat" for late September with representatives of the advisory committee to look at their proposals.

One-third of the 59-member advisory committee recommended in a minority report that instead of adjusting the racial percentages in the schools, the system put most of its eggs in the basket of improving the educational program. They presented an extensive outline of suggestions for improving the schools through greater involvement of parents and towns-

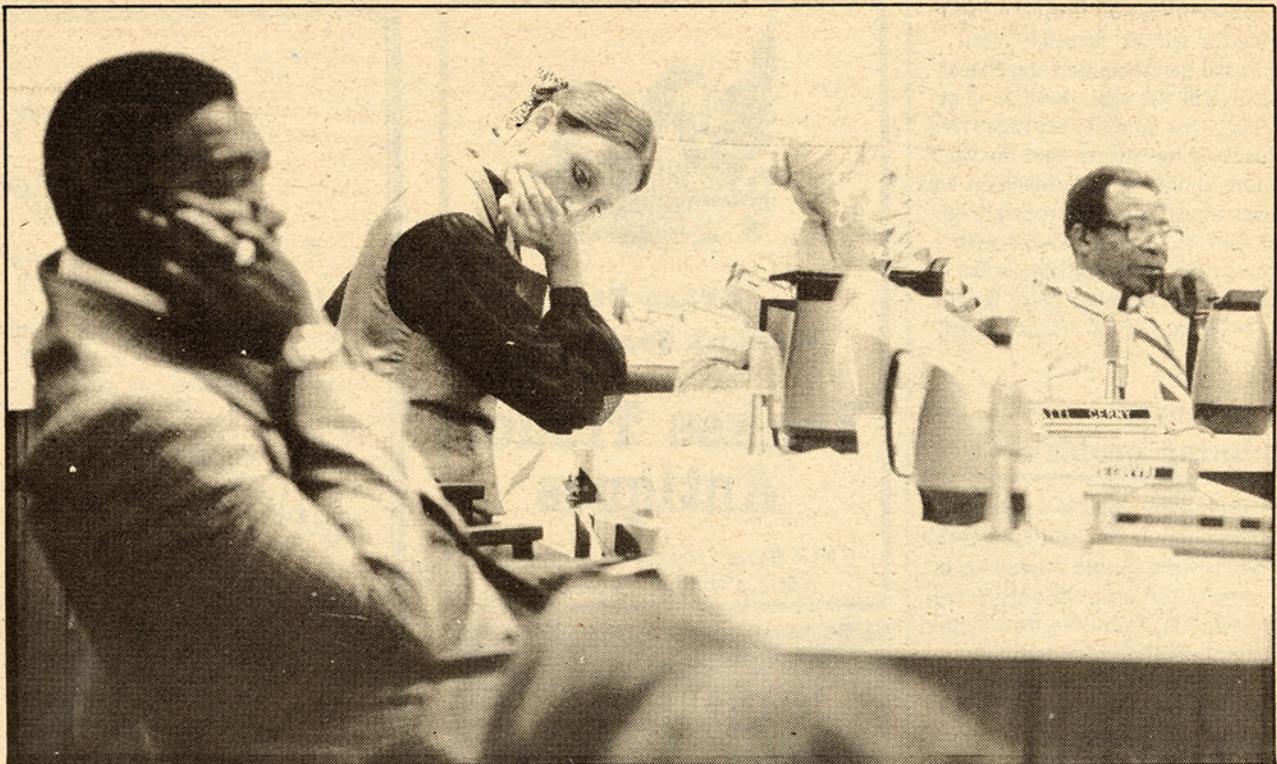
people. They advised the board to spend money on "education, not busing." They felt that the way to change racial imbalance in the schools was to change housing patterns in the city. They pointed out that Barry Tillman, head of the Ann Arbor Office of Community Development, had met with the Advisory Committee and agreed to consider the im-

pact of housing on school imbalance when seeking future sites for "assisted" housing.

The two-thirds majority of the advisory committee also emphasized educational improvement, but said the system needs to improve its racial balance as well. They laid out an array of tools the board can use to do that, including

changing school boundaries, changing the destination of the buses that currently take children from the countryside and North Campus student housing to racially imbalanced schools, and changing which children are on the buses when that would help.

Another plan would set up voluntary magnet schools based on parents' prefer-



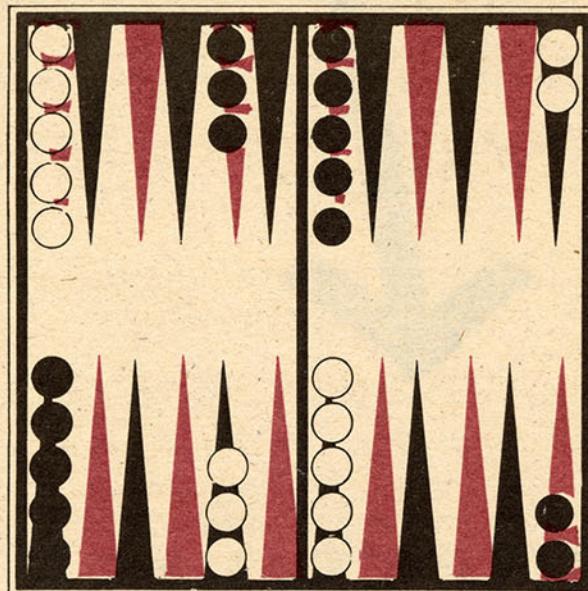
PETER YATES

Problems, problems, problems... reflected in the faces of board members John Powell, Lana Pollack, Patti Cerny, and Joseph Vaughn. Among other problems, the board faces the possibility of a court-mandated solution if racial imbalance among the city's elementary schools isn't reduced.

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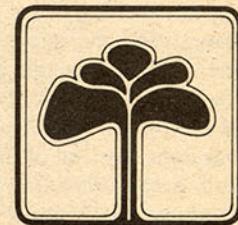
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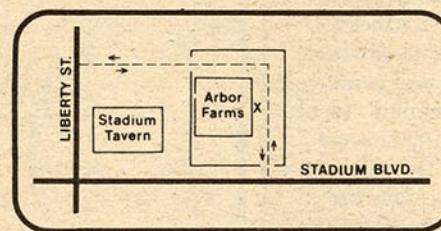
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ences for various learning styles or program emphases (such as a fundamental or a science-oriented elementary school).

Two final plans revolved around the five "clusters"—the large neighborhoods that surround each intermediate school. One of those plans would convert all the elementary schools into either lower or upper grade schools. The other "cluster" concept calls for setting up five Community Involvement Committees to make neighborhood plans for racial balance and curriculum within board guidelines.

How will board members react to this difficult issue? They know that many parents who spoke to the advisory committee last spring were apprehensive and reluctant to have their children leave their neighborhood schools. They know that no one likes change. If Ann Arbor citizens are disturbed enough by a board-imposed plan to shift students away from their traditional schools, liberals will find it difficult to maintain their slim voting control of the board in next June's election.

But with the worrisome threat of court-imposed orders to improve racial balance hanging over its head, the board is likely to change school boundaries and to combine features from several of the other plans in order to improve racial balance with minimal disruption and a maximum amount of voluntary choice.

Dannemiller has been pushing for board action on this issue since early in her first term. Powell co-chaired the advisory committee and likes the approach of Community Involvement Committees. He is impressed with the enthusiastic reaction of previously apprehensive

Lansing parents to such a program.

The conservatives may be tempted by the "just-improve-the-schools" approach of some of their key political supporters, but having been rankled by what they consider unreasonable judicial thinking in the Black English suit, they may not want to risk putting the district under further court orders and may join with liberals in developing a unified plan.

Intermediate school reorganization: towards a common framework

Back in 1971, when Bruce McPherson became superintendent of schools, each of the five intermediate schools (usually grades 7 to 9) was encouraged to develop its own program in response to the specific desires of its staff, parents and students.

The response to this greater curricular

freedom varied according to school. Clague created a middle school tailored to the unique academic and psychological needs of early adolescents. Tappan retained its respected, traditional academic approach. Forsythe, Scarlett, and Slauson evolved various "small house" plans in an attempt to give students a more personal educational experience. Later, MYA, an optional informal program, was also housed at Forsythe.

Most of these individualistic approaches to educating junior high students have been well-accepted by students and parents. But for some time now board members have felt the need for more of what conservative John Heald calls "a common framework among the intermediate schools—so we don't have some kid who moves across town completely out of phase."

Now some teachers and parents fear the board is trying to kill off cherished features of their varied school programs. During this past year, Lee Hansen, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum

and Instruction, and Richard Stock, Director of Secondary Education, have been working on a plan for coordinating the programs of the system's intermediate schools. They have been wooing teachers and the public with a method of participatory planning now in vogue called "iteration." Under iteration, the two men draft and redraft a uniform plan for all five schools, seeking input and alternative suggestions from teachers, community organizations, parents, and the board between each draft.

This fall's new draft calls for each school to have a "regular" instructional program augmented by two "alternative offerings"—one, a basic skills improvement program in reading and math, and the other, informal-style classes available to all students in English, math, social studies and science.

Students in each of the three grade levels would be organized as a group or "house." The school's principal and two

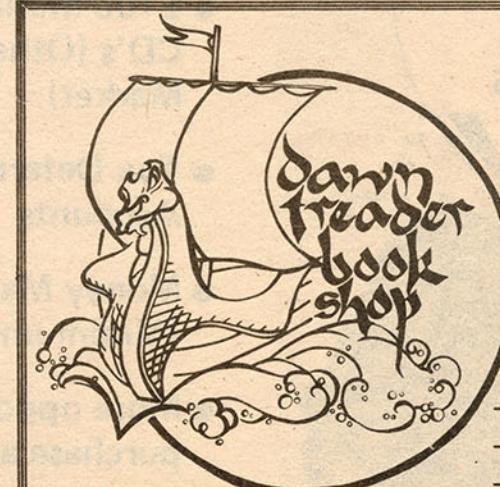
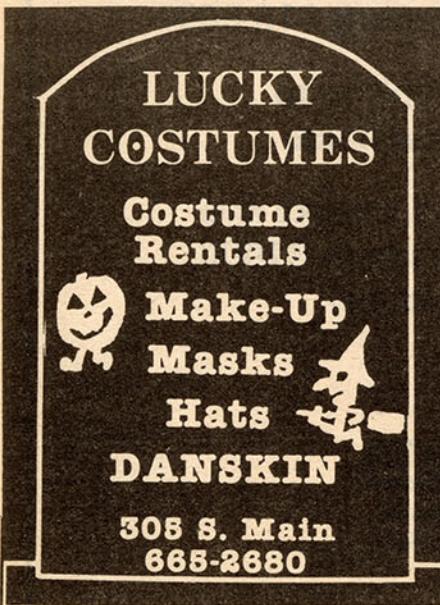
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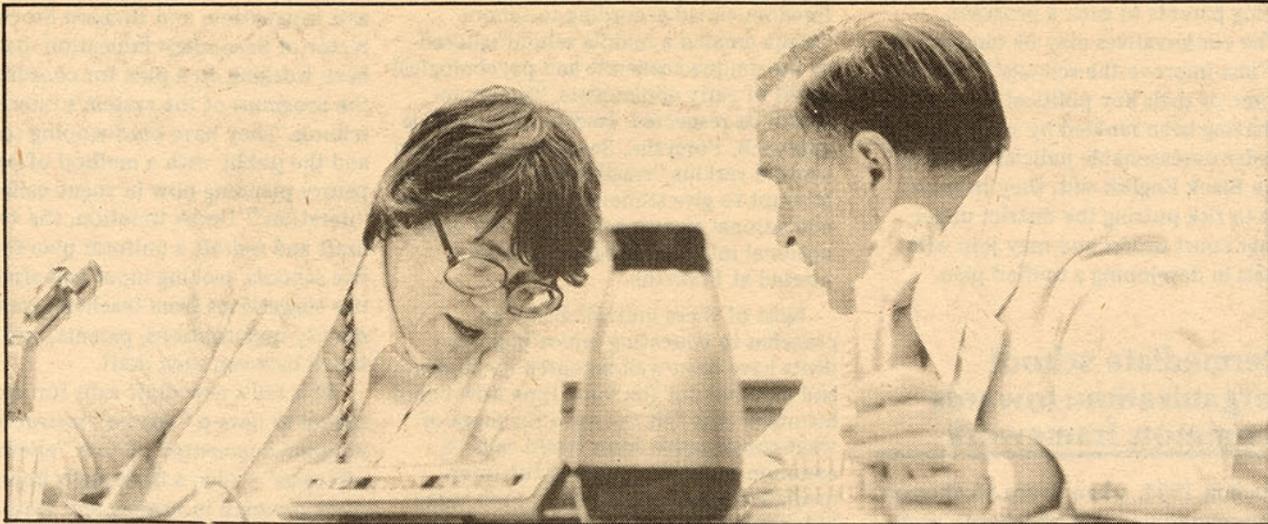
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Board President Kathy Dannemiller and Superintendent Harry Howard confer.
Divided over Black English, can they work in harmony on other issues?

assistant principals would each serve as a "house leader," staying with a grade of students during their three years in intermediate school.

Stock says he and Hansen are determined to develop a plan that is sound educationally and that has a broad base of community support. He hopes they'll finish with their circulating and redrafting before Christmas.

It seems likely that these two energetic administrators, nicknamed "the dynamic duo" by board members, will achieve their goal in time to convert two of the schools on a pilot basis in the fall of 1980. It also seems likely that they will find a way to permit a continuation of some of the diversity that the five schools

have enjoyed in recent years.

Educational diversity: meeting students' differing needs

Over the last six years, conservatives have taken the Ann Arbor Schools toward uniformity, standardization, and a fairly traditional approach to education. But especially in a town like Ann Arbor, there is a steady demand from some parents for non-traditional teaching methods for their children—particularly the less formal, more flexible style of teaching which grew in popularity in the Sixties.

McPherson's response to the cries for

educational options for students was rapid and disorganized. Since 1973, Howard and six successive conservative boards methodically moved back toward standardization. Some now feel that the board has gone too far in that direction. For example, this year 860 parents requested informal classrooms for their elementary school children, but the system provided classes for less than 400 of them.

The board framed two goals during its early September retreat that indicate a budding trend toward diversity. They pictured a Fall of 1980, in which, "The board has moved toward satisfying all parent and student classroom organization and learning style demands," and

"The curriculum guide indicates a diversity of offerings which equitably meets the needs of high-, medium-, and low-achievers."

In late October, the board will discuss the effects of its recently adopted, elementary classroom organization policy, which now declares single-grade (usually traditional) classrooms to be the norm and provides them on a priority basis. The policy has stunted the informal classroom program, already hampered by the reluctance of central administrators and building principals to provide diversified classrooms in the absence of a clear board policy telling them to do so.

It is likely that the board will find ways to increase the diversity of course offerings and to provide more informal classrooms. Other styles may be offered as well, such as a new pilot "academy-approach" classroom, an interest of conservative Patti Cerny.

The development of an "academy" program and the board's final plan to provide for racial balance and school improvement are likely to break new educational ground in Ann Arbor, perpetually torn by the pull between the counter-forces of consistency and diversity. This year, the Ann Arbor schools may be moving for the first time into a period where both consistency and diversity go hand-in-hand. If the schism over the Black English decision does not leave a legacy of division that becomes unbridgeable, Dannemiller, with her knowledge of group process and her drive for school board unity, may be able to help the board find a way to resolve this old dilemma at last. □



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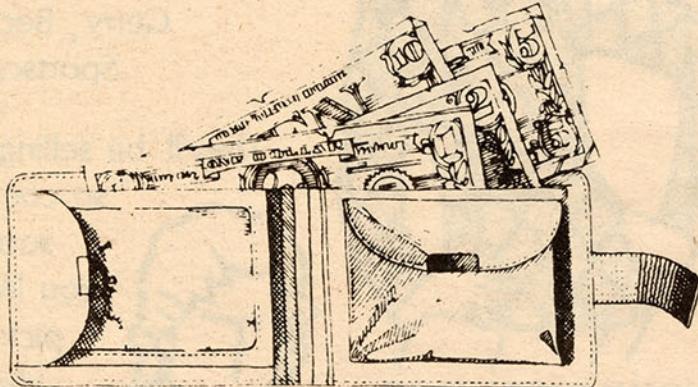
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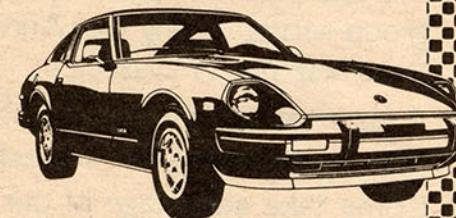
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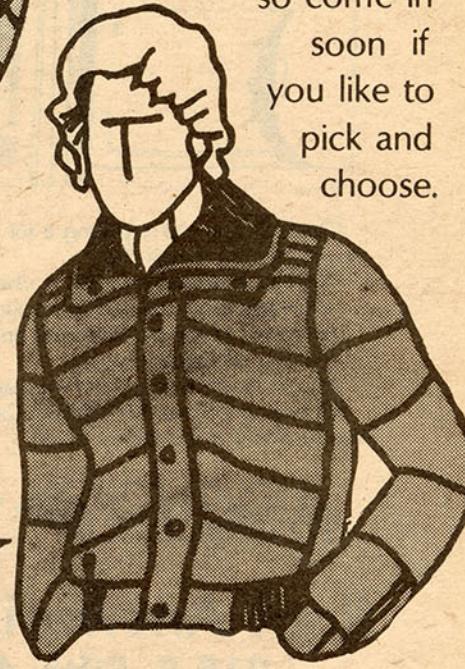
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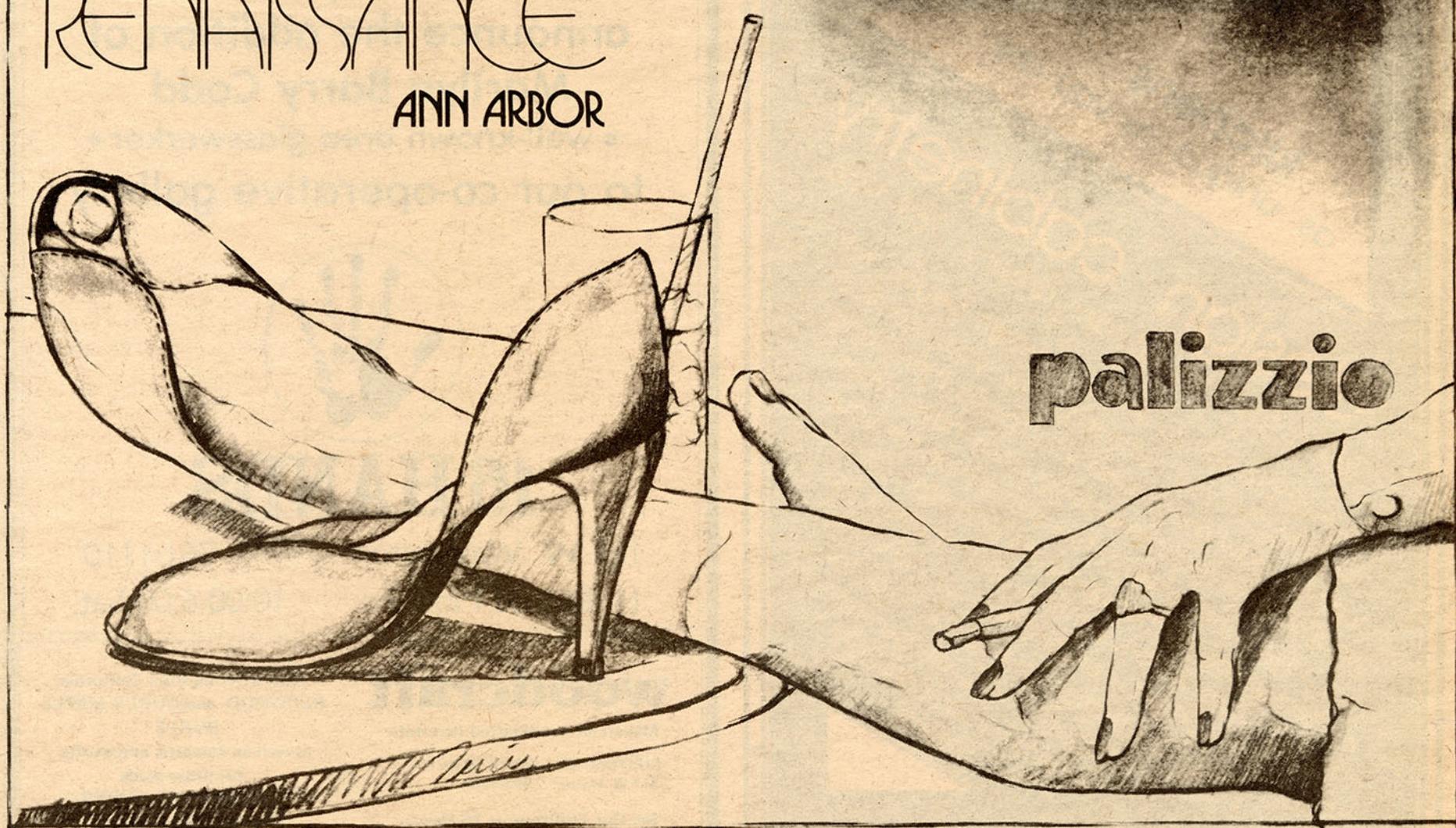
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WAR STORIES

Three Ann Arbor cops tell of their most harrowing experiences on the Ann Arbor police force.

by ED WALTERS

"War stories" is police jargon for the tales of officers' especially challenging moments on the job. Ann Arbor is not a town in which a police officer is likely to come into daily or even weekly contact with violence. But over the years, an officer will accumulate a number of war stories. Recently, staff writer Ed Walters dropped by police headquarters and chatted with three Ann Arbor policemen about their most difficult moments as a cop.

Officer Jinkerson: The Case of the Dangerous Drunk



With a compact build, close-cropped brown hair and serious brown eyes, 34-year old Harry Jinkerson looks like a football player who had just changed into his blue uniform.

An animated story-teller, Officer Jinkerson is in the habit of punctuating the most unsettling parts of his stories with quick laughter. He claims that most patrolmen share his bizarre sense of humor as a mechanism for "staying sane in an insane world." When asked to describe his most dangerous moment in ten years on the force, Jinkerson recalled an encounter with an angry drunk.

"One night several years ago I was out on patrol, on a special detail where my job was to detect and arrest drunk drivers. I was coming inbound on Platt Road, and I saw a car speeding by me in the opposite direction. As the car passed, I could tell that it had gone off the edge of the road from the dust it kicked up in the air. I turned around and gave chase. The driver turned onto Ellsworth Road, drove west on Ellsworth and turned onto Braeburn. He pulled into a parking space in the first small lot off of Braeburn. The driver and another man jumped out of the car and began walking very rapidly towards the apartments. I had followed them down Ellsworth and pulled my pa-

trol car up just off their rear bumper.

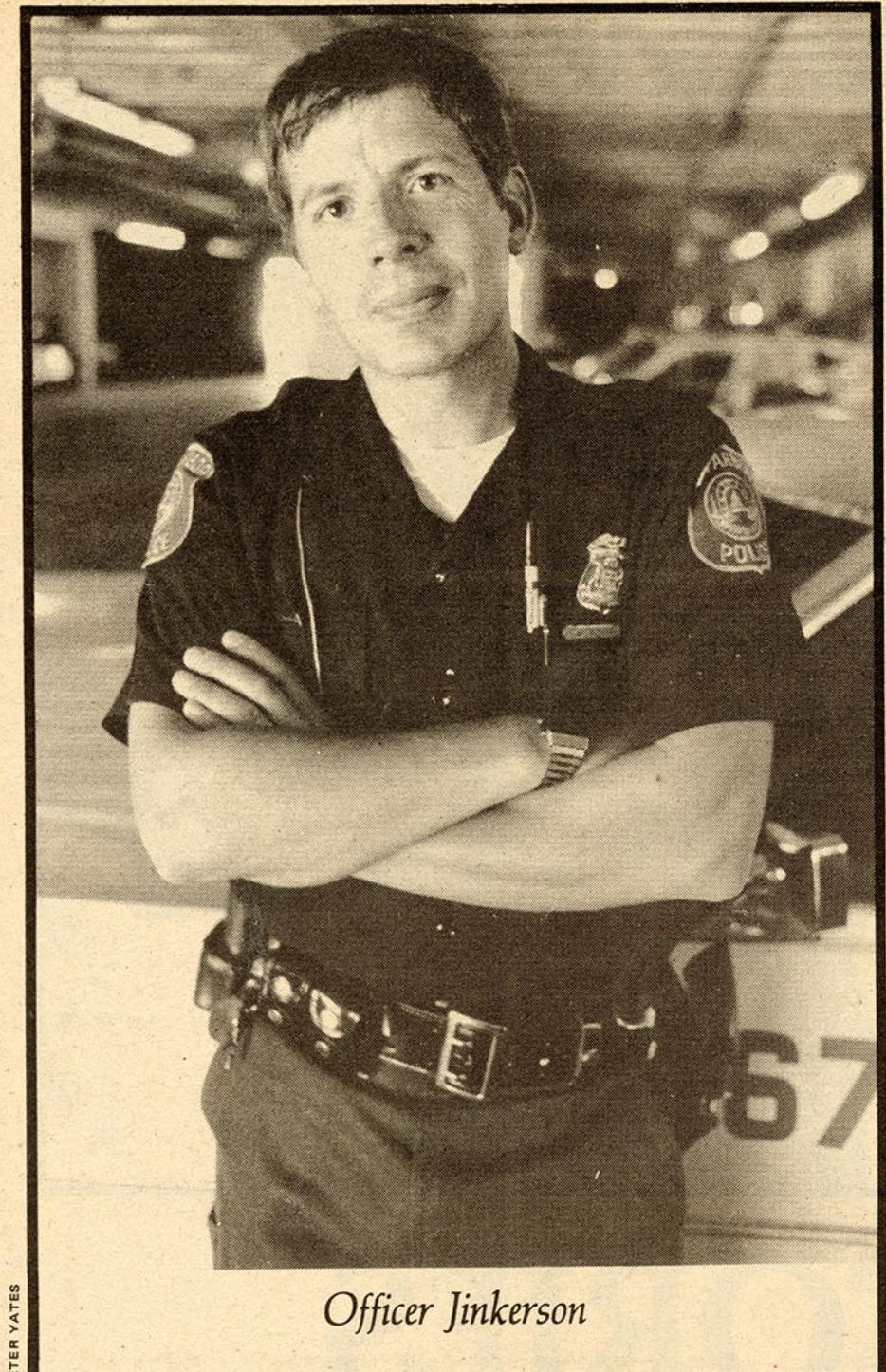
"As I had pulled in behind him, my police radio was busy. I had the choice of waiting for the radio to clear and calling in the traffic stop, as is our normal procedure, or getting out of the car, approaching the man, and stopping his flight. I chose the latter. I ran up to the driver, who was walking down the sidewalk, put my hand on his shoulder and said, 'Wait a minute, I want to talk to you.' Well, he wouldn't turn around. He told me to get my hands off of him. I said, 'Okay, I'm not touching you anymore, but I clocked you going 65 miles an hour in a 35-mile-an-hour zone, and you were weaving all over the road, and I want to talk to you.'

"He told me that he wasn't going to talk to me and that he wasn't stopping for anybody. At this point I realized that I was going to have some problems with this guy. I told him that he was going to show me his driver's license or that I was going to arrest him. He told me again that he wouldn't show it. I told him that he was under arrest, grabbed his coat and

told him to come with me. He pulled away and ripped his leather coat. That really made him mad. He hit me on the side of the face, and as I staggered back, I hit him along the side of the head with my flashlight.

"Well, this guy was big. He was probably about six-foot-two but must have weighed 250 pounds. And I'm only fifteen and 170 pounds. And he was strong. He picked me up by the front of my coat and threw me across the hood of a parked car about eight feet away. Then he jumped on top of me, put his hands around my throat and started choking me. His friend grabbed my right hand and was holding it across the hood of the car so that I couldn't hit back.

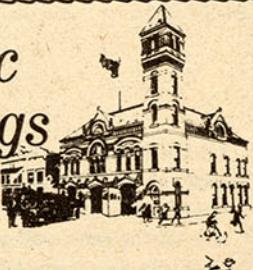
"I got very worried. Since I hadn't called in my stop, no one knew where I was. There's no doubt that the man was angry. At the time I thought he was angry enough to kill me. He had been drinking and didn't have full control of his emotions. At this point I figured I was going to have to shoot him. I had been trying to push him off with my left hand. Now



Officer Jinkerson

PETER YATES

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I reached down and pulled out my gun. He just reached down and with one hand wrenched it away from me, because he was so much stronger than me. I was really in trouble. So I lied to him, told him that I had help coming, and apparently he believed me, because he threw my gun down. In doing that he relaxed his grip on me a little and I kneed him in the groin. He fell back and I jumped off the car hood. I ran back to my police car, got my shotgun and arrested him for drunk driving and assaulting a police officer. He was later convicted on the assault charge.

Jinkerson paused, then explained "One difficulty with the job is that everything happens so fast, you don't have time to think about what you're doing—you just react. For example, the last time I shot at a person, we had gotten a report of a person crawling up the outside of Goodyear's downtown. When we got there we found a car parked up next to the back door. We couldn't find a way to get in, so I crawled up the outside of the building and shinnied through an open window into the dark building. If you know Goodyear's, it's a real conglomerate with a lot of different layers, stairways, and hallways. I had come in at the balcony level. It was pitch black and there were clothing racks hanging everywhere—hundreds of places for people to hide. I got the feeling that someone could jump out at me any second.

"I walked up to the edge of the balcony and saw this guy on the level below me taking stuff out of one of the jewelry counters and stuffing it into a sack. My first reaction was to wonder what the janitor was doing working with the lights out. It didn't occur to me that I was watching a breaking-and-entering in progress, because those things happen once in a lifetime. Suddenly it dawned on me, 'Goddam, this guy's a crook!' I stood there thinking that he must be a professional burglar. He had dark clothing on. He had a satchel. All the things the professional burglars on TV have. I was worried that he might have help in the building or that he could have a gun. So I pulled my gun out of my holster and started walking towards him. He was also coming towards me, because I had made some noise walking in. He was looking around furtively and had one hand in a pocket. I yelled, 'Halt, police!' and he suddenly pulled his hand out of his pocket. I didn't wait to think about what he

was doing, I just fired. The bullet hit near his feet and he started running. I was really scared. I thought I was going to be in a firefight. He ran around a corner and disappeared. I didn't know whether he had left or not, so I took off my shoes, took off my badge, took off my hat with the shiny medallion on it—took off anything that could squeak or jingle—and started to crawl towards the corner. I wanted to make sure that I wasn't a good target if the guy was still around. I just waited for help to come. I was shaking from having shot at the guy—what if I had killed him? We caught the guy later, outside of the building, and he didn't have the gun on him, so I'm not sure he ever even had one."

Jinkerson admitted that his job has its dangerous moments, but he is more worried about the psychological impact of the constant stress police officers live with.

"Law enforcement isn't that physically dangerous, but it is mentally stressful. I don't feel danger out on the street. I'm not worried about getting shot or beaten up. If you did, you'd have to treat everybody so coldly that you wouldn't be able to communicate with anyone.

"The problem is that every time you meet someone, it's in a bad context: you're either putting them under arrest, giving them a ticket, or you've come in a day late and a dollar short when they've been victimized by a breaking and entering. Your contacts with people are always negative.

"Furthermore, you begin to look at people in a negative light. You don't look at someone walking down the street and respond, 'Hi, good citizen.' You look at them and wonder what they've done wrong that you haven't noticed, because that's part of your job. You develop a negative outlook on people, and it starts affecting your mind and your whole life. This negative outlook is one of the major hazards of police work.

"We don't dare get emotionally involved in what we do. You can't make sound and quick decisions when you're emotionally involved. I don't think a doctor, for instance, would ever operate on a member of his own family. Police officers have to maintain an emotional detachment from the people they work with.

"We develop a strange outlook on life. The telling fact is that although the job is not physically dangerous, it is crippling to

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the mind and the self. Police officers have a high incidence of stress-related diseases. I've read that police officers have the highest divorce rate of any occupational group and the highest rate of heart attacks.

"That's what really worries me about my work. It shows me what's going on in the cop's mind. He's taking all this stress home with him. He's keeping it bottled up inside and has no effective means of working it out. And so police officers die sooner—not because they're getting shot, but because they're getting divorces, heart attacks. You name any stress-related ailment and police officers are at the top of the list of people who suffer from it."

Officer Oxender: The Case of the .38 in the Belly

Late at night, after the administrators and the public servants have gone home, the police desk is an island of light in the darkened Ann Arbor City Hall. The generally older and more experienced cops who work the night shift deal with a less subdued range of human behavior than their counterparts on the day or afternoon shifts. I interviewed two patrolmen just coming off a night patrol to find out how their work affects them and how they cope with it.

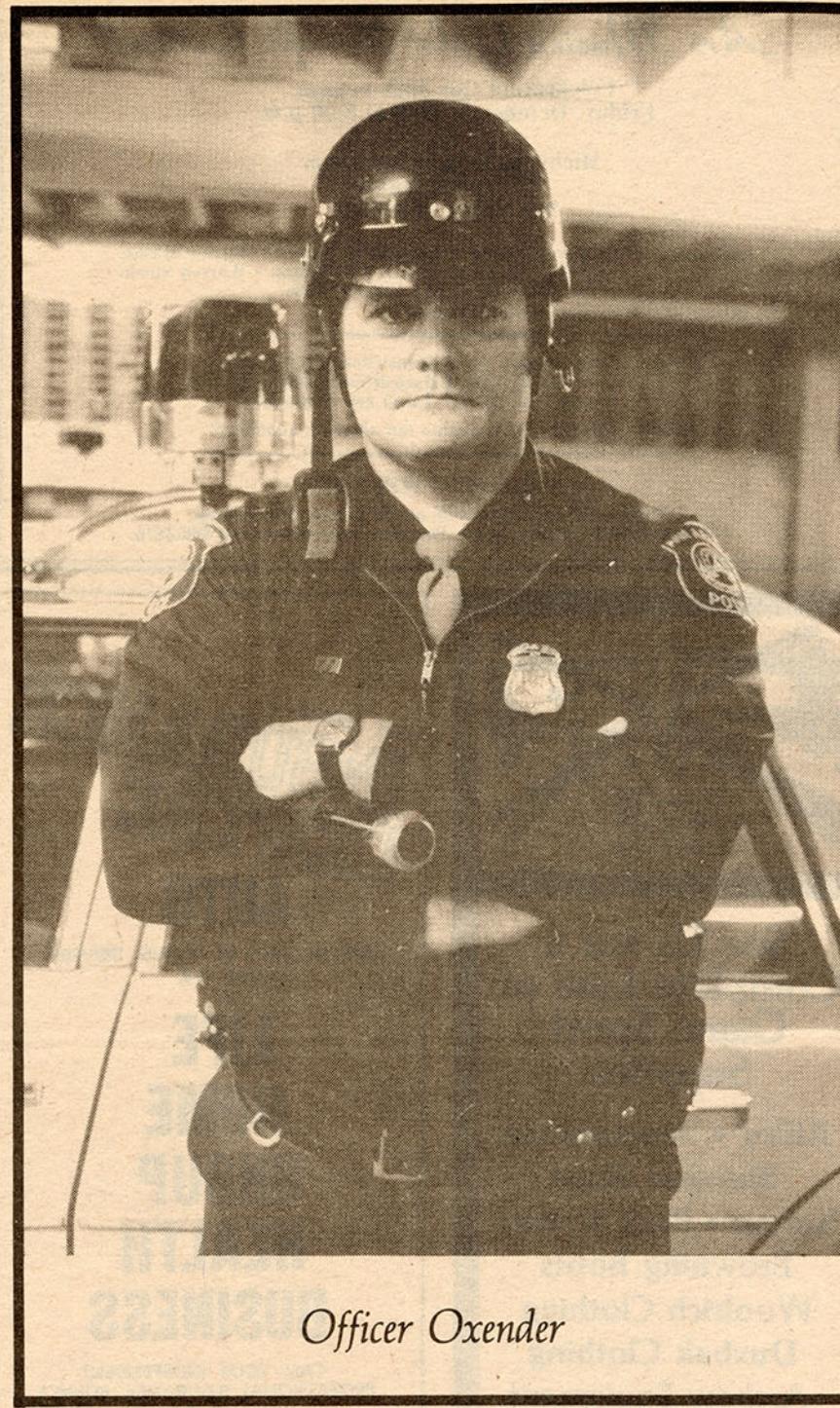
Officer Gary Oxender has worked for the Ann Arbor Police since 1971. He started out writing parking tickets, went through the department's recruit school and has been on patrol duty since 1972. Physically, Oxender is a big man. With his bubble-style helmet and the heavy combat boots he wears on patrol he looks seven feet tall. Surprisingly, Oxender's reputation is just the opposite of what you'd expect from such an intimidating physical specimen.

"I seem to get involved in things all the time where I get hurt," he told me. "There's a couple of guys in the department like me that the others call 'plastic', because we break easy, I guess. Two years ago I broke my foot in four places while chasing a guy, and I broke my wrist this past winter."

Oxender is obviously deeply involved in his work. He talked about his most harrowing experiences in a deliberate, almost sad tone of voice.

"I was involved in a shooting incident out on the expressway about four or five years ago. Officer Terry and I were riding on a regular patrol in town. The county sheriff had got into a chase of three escapees from a branch of Jackson Prison. They had all been in for breaking and entering. They robbed a guard there with a pair of scissors, stealing his car, his guns, and some money. The county sheriffs finally spotted them out near Chelsea. We set up a roadblock at the interchange of M-14 and I-94. They got by us, and we started chasing them. Right near the Holiday Inn one of the passengers in the back seat pulled a gun and leaned out the window with it. Officer Terry let go with three rounds from his revolver, and I took out their back window with a shotgun blast. We finally managed to run them off the road. The driver gave up right away, but the two passengers gave us a brief fight. One took a swing at an officer, and the other took off running. By this time, though, they were pretty much surrounded by the six officers who had been involved in the chase so they gave up pretty quick.

"I was also involved in a situation where I was responding to a family fight call, and a guy suddenly stuck a .38 pistol in my belly. I was scared, no two ways about it. I put my gun to his head and told him to drop the .38. It was like a Mexican stand-off. He didn't drop his gun, and I didn't drop mine. I had the gun cocked, and to this day I don't know why I didn't shoot him. He finally lowered his gun a little, and I hit him right



Officer Oxender

PETER YATES

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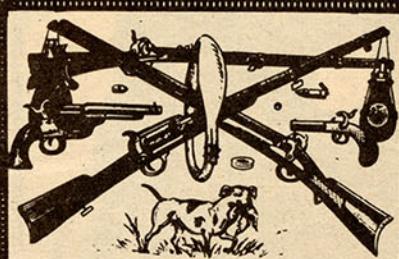
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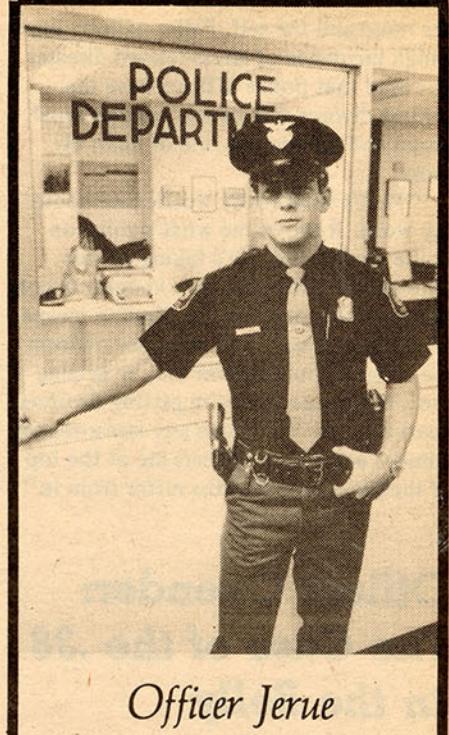
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on the collarbone with my nightstick. That knocked him back, his gun went flying, and I jumped him.

"There have been good times and bad times on the force. And I've seen a lot of pain—not necessarily my getting hurt. The thing I find is that people think of officers as cold-hearted and not caring. We do this to protect ourselves. You build this little shield around yourself, because if you took everything personally, it would eat your gut out.

"I remember a fatal accident I responded to out on the North Side. A ten-year-old boy riding his bike turned in front of a car and was hit. It was pretty gruesome—it tore his leg off—and he was probably dead on the scene. That really bothered me. It tore me up. You can't let it get to you, though, because you've got to do your job. You have to be the person who can deal with the situation. No matter what it is, you cannot lose control. I don't care if it's an accident injury or a dog bite. People are calling on you because they've got a problem, no matter what."



Officer Jerue

PETER YATES

Officer Jerue: The Case of the Deadly VW

The contrast between Officer Oxender and his partner on patrol, Officer Larry Jerue, couldn't be greater. Where Oxender is big, slow-speaking and direct, Jerue is baby-faced, bright and talkative. Jerue, a patrolman for five years, likes to talk about the rewarding sides to his work rather than the threatening episodes.

"I've seen an awful lot of interesting things happen that I would characterize as humorous rather than difficult. Police work is not like you see on 'Starsky and Hutch' where they nab three bad guys in an hour, or like 'Adam-12' where it only takes a half-hour. I would point to the statistics that show that 70% of our work is more like handling complaints about noisy parties or barking dogs. But there are also the 30% where you have to respond to calls that present a threat to either yourself or someone else.

"I was involved in a caper a while ago in which a dozen horses escaped out on Nixon and Dhu Varren Roads. Some poor guy woke up at about three in the morning and looked out at twelve horses grazing on his front lawn. He called the de-

partment and had to convince the officers that he hadn't been drinking. They finally sent Officer Jensen and myself out to check. We drove through a subdivision following a trail of horse droppings and in the 2700 block of Antietam came face-to-face with a dozen horses. They immediately stampeded back into the subdivision, running over everything in their way. We finally got them cornered with the help of two other officers. Officer Melby and myself went after them. They started running towards us. Officer Melby shinnied up a tree and I went running through somebody's garden. Unfortunately, the garden had a high wire fence around it and I went tumbling. Much to my chagrin, I landed in a pile of horse droppings. Eventually the owner showed up and got a saddle on one of the horses. Officer Jensen rode one horse away, and the rest followed.

"There are also times that have been fairly serious. When I had only been on patrol a few months, we had an incident where Officer Kramer was operating radar on North Main, and a young man in a Volkswagen went through the radar too fast. Kramer pulled out and followed the Volkswagen to make a routine traffic stop, and the driver started to flee. Kramer called in the vehicle's plates and then stated that the vehicle would not stop and that he was in pursuit. Halfway through the chase the car was con-



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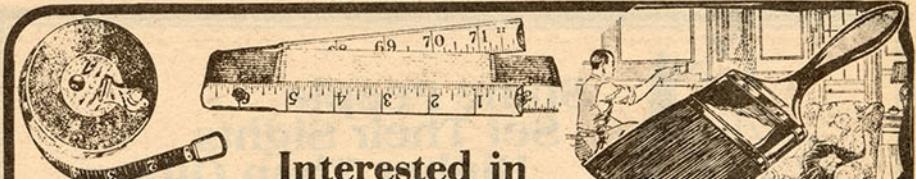
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firmed as a stolen vehicle. I was riding with Officer Stearns. We overheard Kramer's radio traffic and responded to assist. We had been inbound on Huron, and as the other vehicles turned westbound on Miller, we cut across on Seventh.

"The chase went up Brooks Street, as I recall, through the subdivision of Brooks and Summit up to Sunset where the VW made a left-hand turn and proceeded westbound to Newport and then southbound on Newport. Somewhere around the 2000 block of Newport, Officer Kramer pulled his car around the side of the VW, slowing down in front of it to about ten miles an hour, while we stayed to the rear. After he had gotten his car far enough ahead, Officer Kramer turned his car as a roadblock. The individual who had stolen the car opened his door, as if to bail out, saw Officer Kramer, shut the car door and deliberately ran into him. It threw Officer Kramer about six feet in the air, up on top of his car. The stolen car veered to the side. Officer Stearns pulled around beside it and said that it looked like the fellow was going to run and that he wanted me to catch him.

"When the Volkswagen finally stopped, the young man bailed out and started running. I chased him on foot through the back yards between Newport and Poma-na for what seemed like miles. At one point I had my service revolver out, but I decided that rather than shoot, I would see if I could catch him. My adrenalin was so pumped up at that point that I wanted to catch him. I wanted to be able to grab him and put him under arrest more than anything else.

"I finally captured him right in front of the Forsythe School on Newport. It turned out that while he was bigger than me, at just under six feet tall, he was only fifteen years old. While by the law I would have been justified in shooting, it would have been tragic. Shooting anybody would be very difficult to do. It's something we have to live with. The police have an image of being gun-hungry, hired killers and so forth. It's not like that, at least not in Ann Arbor.

"But we can't afford to become complacent. When I'm making a traffic stop, I don't know if I'm stopping an average citizen or someone who's wanted by the police. There's a survey that shows that more cops are killed doing routine traffic stops than on any other duty. If there's something we see that's not in order—if your trunk is a little open or if the license

plates are wired on, or if you reach under the seat for your wallet, looking like you might be going for a gun, it's possible the officer may draw his gun on you and tell you to come back up with your hands empty. We have to treat it as if it were real, or we might end up as a statistic.

Officers Jerue and Oxender had to go back out on patrol, but Jerue made me sit and listen to one last story, a funny one.

"We were working a 6:30 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. shift about two years ago, and we pulled out of the station and turned east-bound on Huron. We saw a young male, probably 20 years old, running across Huron near Thayer. It was around 7 p.m., and traffic on Huron was pretty heavy, but he didn't slow down at all as he crossed. About fifty feet behind him, I saw one of our older undercover men, dressed in bermuda shorts and tennis shoes, running full-speed, chasing this guy. I hollered to him, 'Do you want him?' and he yelled back, 'Yeah, get him!' My partner, Officer Burke, who was driving, followed the youth going the wrong way down Thayer. He then cut in between two houses. When we got there, Officer Burke put the patrol car into park while we were still going about ten miles an hour. The car squealed to a stop, rocked forward, and almost dropped its transmission. I opened my car door, ready to give chase. As I exited, my gun got tangled in the seat belt, and I took two quick steps, was jerked off my feet, and landed flat on my back. The young man we were chasing was looking back over his shoulder to see what had happened to us and ran square into a three-foot-high picket fence. He went head over heels over the fence, and the stolen property he was carrying went flying. He was laid out on the ground on the other side of the fence, in obvious pain from the many injuries he had suffered from the fence. Officer Burke tried to step over the fence after him and got caught half-way over. He too was in excruciating pain.

"At this point our sergeant rolled up. He got out of his car, walked up, and saw the suspect laid out on the ground, one of his officers hung up on a picket fence, another, myself, stumbling around holding his back, which felt broken, and an undercover cop struggling for breath and white as a sheet from the exertion of the chase. He stopped, looked around, and said, 'What the hell happened here?' And none of us was in any condition to tell him." □

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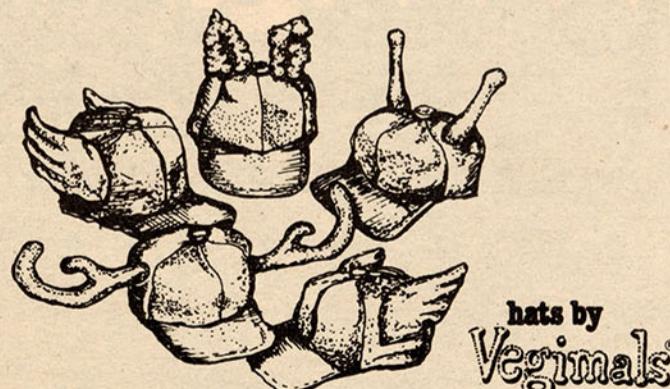
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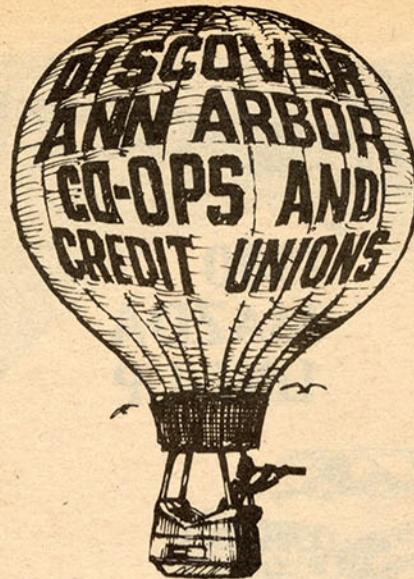
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October 19: Ralph Nader (consumer advocate) and Maggie Kuhn (founder of the Gray Panthers) speaking on "Economic Democracy" and "Life Style of this New Age - Independence and Cooperation," Ballroom of Michigan Union, 7 p.m., \$2 in advance, \$2.50 at door. Limited seating. Sponsored by NASCO, 663-0889.

October 19-21: NASCO Institute '79 - Co-op Training for the '80's. Workshops in Michigan Union on Starting Co-ops, Co-ops for Elders, The Co-op Bank, Food and Housing Co-ops. Call 663-0889 to register.

October 20: Co-op Auto: Open House. Free diagnostic inspections for all visiting vehicles by the Co-op's ten certified mechanics. Free cider and cookies. 2232 S. Industrial, 769-0220, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

October 20: Packard Food Co-op: Benefit Social at Halfway Inn (basement of U.M. East Quad Bldg., on Church near Hill), evening. Music, food, dancing. Information, 761-8173.

October 21: People's Warehouse: Open house for the public, afternoon. The Warehouse is the food wholesaler for the Michigan Federation of Food Co-ops. 727 W. Ellsworth Road, Bldg. 15, 761-4642.

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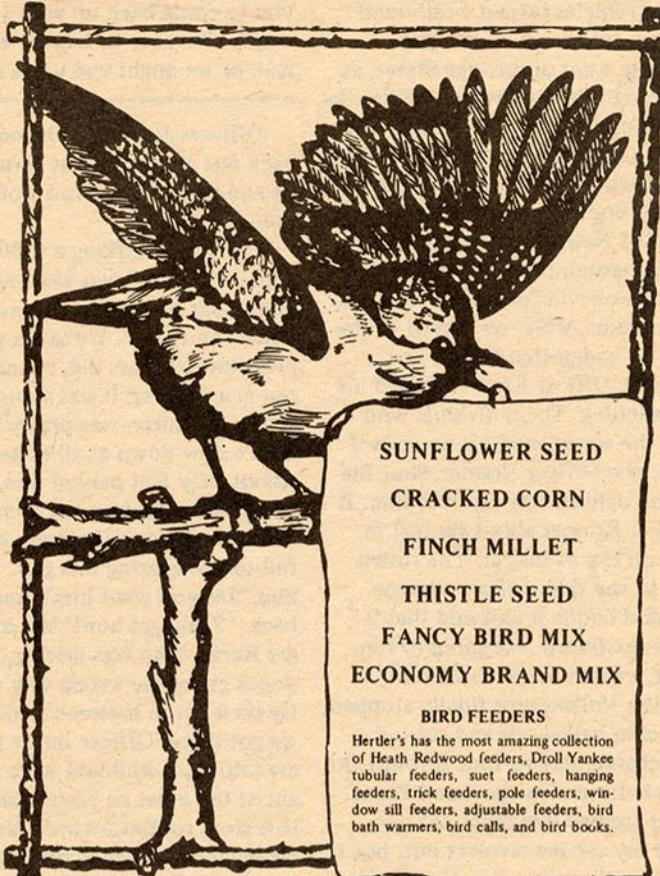
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50 Years Later: The Depression Remembered

*October, 1929—
the month of the stock market crash
that precipitated the Great Depression.
We talk to seven Ann Arborites about
how people coped with hard times here
and how the Depression changed their lives.*



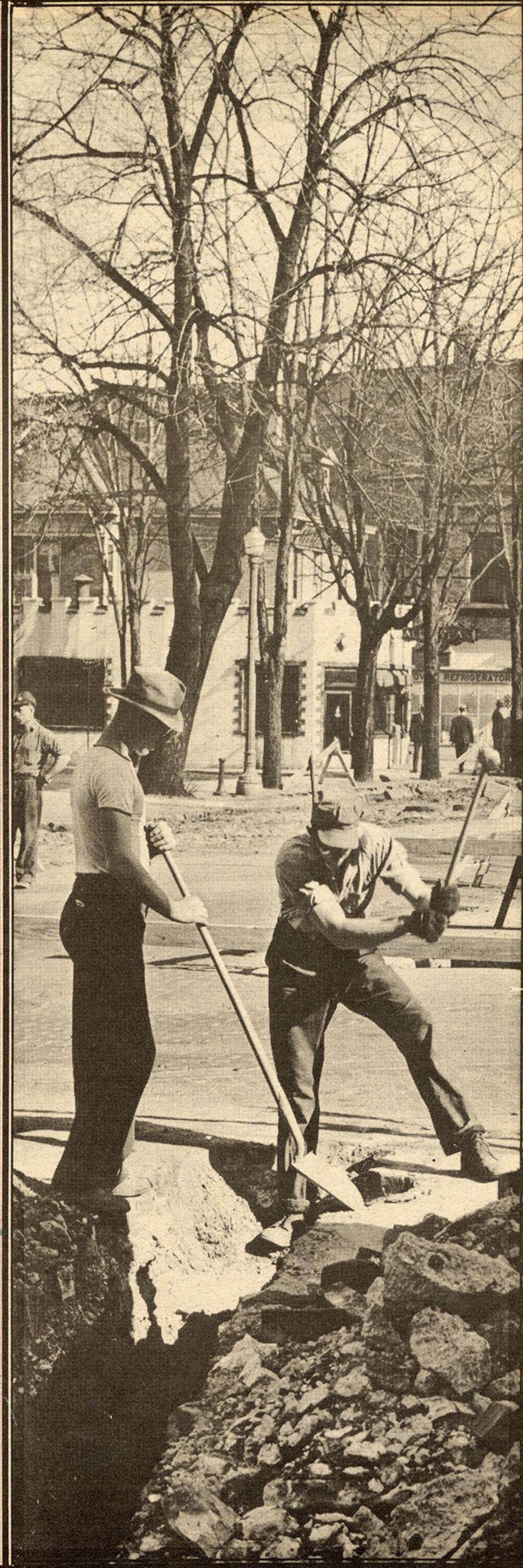
Our interviewees' views of the Depression may not seem to gibe with the typical picture of those times. None of them stood on streetcorners selling apples or queued up in soup lines. There are no tales of ruined men jumping out of windows. In fact, suicide stories were greatly exaggerated nation-wide, and the speculative fever of the Twenties had been rare in this conservative town, which voted for Hoover over Roosevelt in 1932. As small-town Midwesterners, Ann Arborites tended to hold old-fashioned values and to eschew high living.

The Depression affected Ann Arbor less severely than many places, especially big cities and rural areas. The state-supported University of Michigan buffered the city of 27,000 from many direct effects of the Depression. University enrollment didn't dip because many young people, with little possibility of finding jobs, opted to extend their educations under strained circumstances.

Still, many hard-working people here found themselves without jobs. And for everyone, even those who were not badly affected directly, the Depression's sudden arrival was a terrific shock. After all, business and political leaders in the late twenties had been proclaiming the advent of a permanent age of prosperity. Older people in particular were bitterly disillusioned.

The Ann Arborites we interviewed were mostly in their twenties and thirties during the Depression years. They were young and resilient enough to learn from their difficult experiences.

Interviewer-editors for this piece were Annette Churchill, who interviewed Neil Staebler, Stu Thayer, and George Wedemeyer; Mary Hunt, who spoke with Elsa Ordway and Margaret Young; and Tom Wieder, who talked to Bill Henderson and A.K. Stevens.



A.K. STEVENS: Hard times spared the U-M faculty but inspired many to cooperative action.

During the Depression A. K. Stevens, 78, was a junior member of the English department, from which he retired in 1971, after a 42-year teaching career. Raised in the Dutch Reformed faith in western Michigan, he is a Biblical scholar with liberal social ideas, which he actively implemented. Such social reformers, though by no means typical, were not uncommon among U-M academics during the 1930's, especially in the humanities.

I wasn't involved very directly in the crash. That was something far removed, 'way off in New York City. I had no stocks or shares of any kind. Didn't mean a thing. The only thing I recall from close to the crash is that one of my students told me with relish how his uncle had foreseen the crash. He had been deep in stocks and bonds, had seen it coming and sold out just before the crash—at the highest level of the market. He was a phenomenally lucky fellow, as the student implied. I recall this as the first vivid evidence that the crash was going to be meaningful.

We really didn't feel the Depression in Ann Arbor until '32. By that I mean the academic community, for sure. That means the city generally, too, because the momentum of the university, particularly the budgets from the legislature, continued satisfactorily through '30 and '31. It was in '32 that we really woke up to be aware that there was a depression on.

Then in 1932, there was a reduction in the annual appropriation to the university, which was then the "staggering figure" of a million dollars or more. I recall that in '32 my salary was \$2000. I had started at \$1600 and annual increments got it up to \$2000. When the budget was cut, everybody in the university had to take a cut. I was reduced to \$1813. And it stayed at that figure for some years.

Our family's lifestyle was still in the formative stages, so if we had to give up anything it was because we didn't adopt it. We didn't know that we were cramped. We were pleased that we could just make it. We saved enough and were canny enough.

On the other hand, I could uncork stories of hardship among the students that were unbelievable. They found they could make a living and keep body and soul together by being students. They could find work in Ann Arbor, part-time, day-to-day, just enough to keep surviving, by being students at the U. I remember one student, now an eminent businessman in Ann Arbor, because I gave him a few hours of work washing windows on the house, stuff that I didn't really need to have done for me, but I discovered he was hanging by a thread. I gave him an extra 50¢, in addition to the agreed-upon wage. He hugged that fifty-cent piece, which was pretty big money, a pretty big tip.

Now, of course, he's well on his way to being a millionaire.

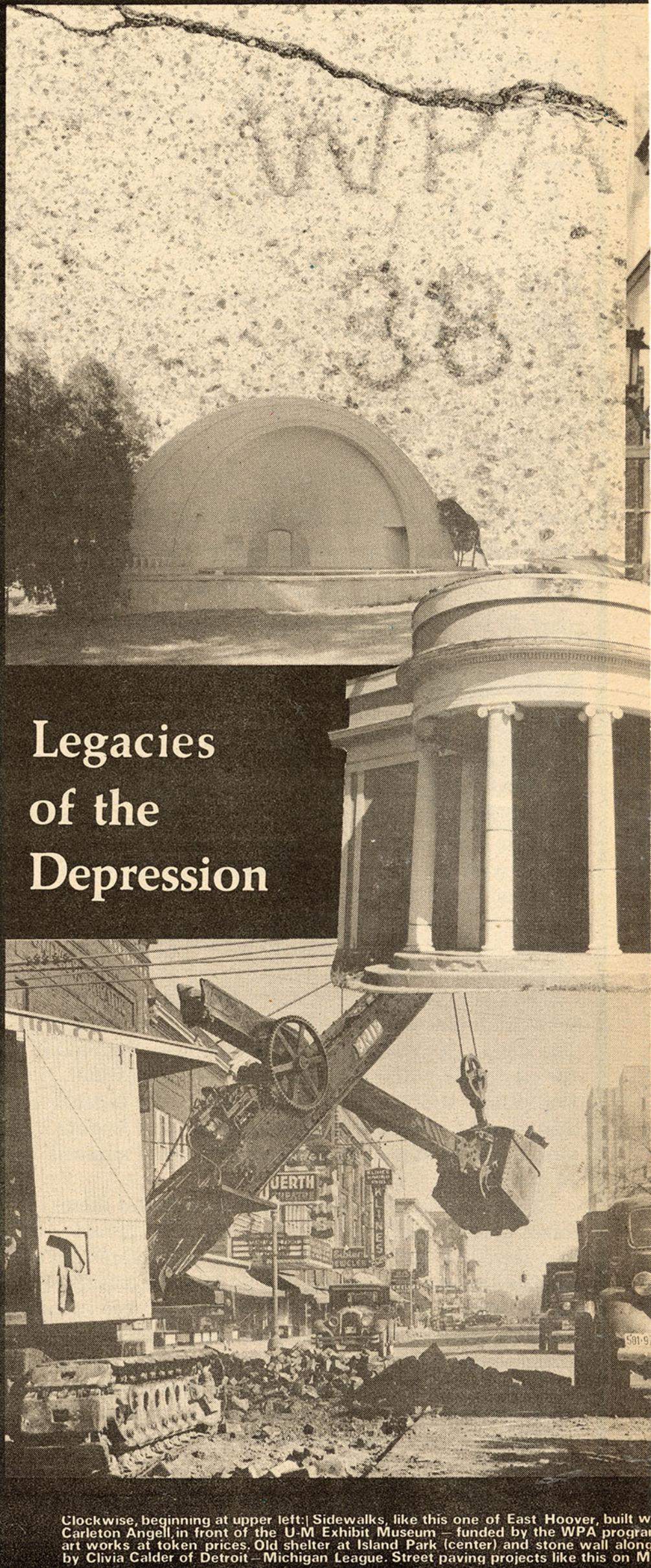
We harbored a student from Nebraska in our upstairs room. He was a starving student, and he couldn't go home because he'd had a quarrel with his family. How he managed to pay outstate tuition, I don't know. But he was really strapped, so we put him in a room of the attic of the tiny house that we owned at that time. His stratagem was to buy a ticket for board a few blocks off. He refused to eat regularly at our table. He bought a ticket for, say, two or three dollars a week for eats at a boarding house on the corner of Hill and Packard, and he described how meager the fare was. I guess it was only for dinners, and that was the only meal he'd have in a day. "How do you do that?" I asked him. "Well," he said, "I learned that if I drink a lot of cold water first before the dinner, I can come away from the dinner feeling satisfied."

The Depression woke up us middle-class Americans who were smug and satisfied, and we started questioning the economic functioning of the society. It woke me up for sure. We began to take an active interest in the economic welfare for the nation because it impinged on us.

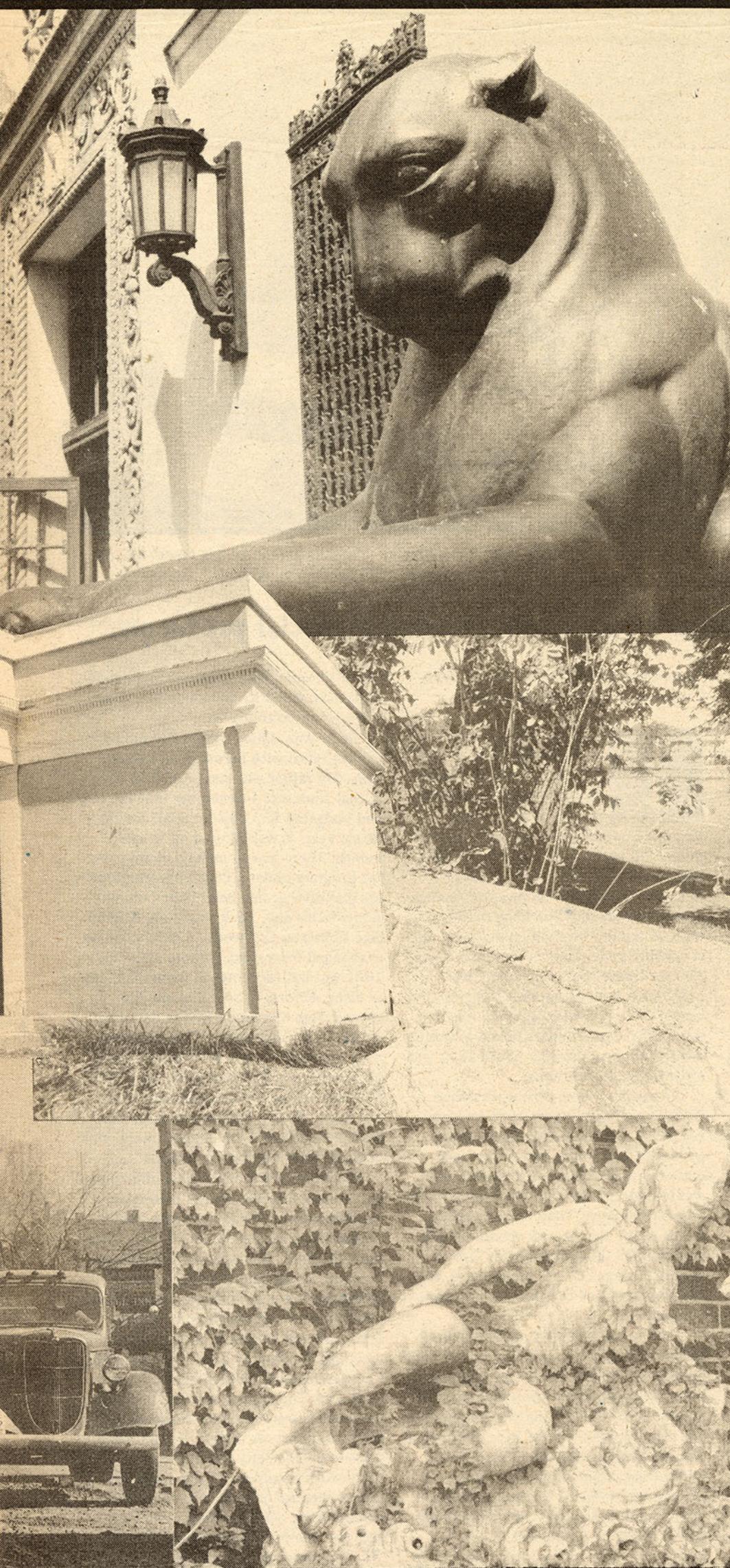
I was a founder of the Ann Arbor Cooperative Society. It got its germinal principle from a group of students that we called radicals in those days, who thought of themselves as socialists. They had rented a house on North State Street. They learned that they could reduce their expenses by pooling their buying. They got the cooperation of Neil Staebler, who was running his father's coal business, and they formed a coal-buying club, using the Michigan Socialist House as the nucleus. From the idea of buying coal by the carload, from the discovery that they could reduce their living expenses by pooling their buying, grew the Ann Arbor Cooperative Society.

We incorporated in '36. Our first stage was a building at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Catherine. We had a grocery store and a gas station. Those were glorious days. The stunt that we pulled more than once was to watch for the "loss leaders" of other stores. There was a packers' outlet on Huron Street. Their loss leader every once in a while was 100 pounds of sugar, and they really took a loss on it. We learned that we could send one, two, three, four or five of our members, each get 100 pounds of sugar, and take it over to the co-op and still sell it to our members without a loss. Of course, the co-op being non-profit, we could benefit our members that way. We thought we were pretty smart.

In these churning times, what was classified as radical thought included proposals for changing the whole economy of America. Most of us were content to contemplate a cooperative America. We knew how this cooperative principle could be extended to all avenues of life. But there was always a scintilla-



Clockwise, beginning at upper left: Sidewalks, like this one of East Hoover, built by Carleton Angell, in front of the U-M Exhibit Museum — funded by the WPA program. Art works at token prices. Old shelter at Island Park (center) and stone wall along by Clivia Calder of Detroit — Michigan League. Street paving projects like this on M



With federal WPA (Works Projects Administration) funds. Pumas by Ann Arbor sculptor Fuller road—part of extensive city-funded improvements to Island Park. Nymph Statue near William—done by the city but financed by the state. Band shell in West Park.

ing underworld in our membership who were dedicated communists and hard-bitten socialists who kept us stirred up. Nobody really bothered us much, and the police never descended on us, but it was reported that the newspaper and people

associated with it, the solid "establishment," looked condescendingly at our experiment—professors trying to be businessmen. The Ann Arbor Cooperative Society still exists today in the form of the Ann Arbor Coop Credit Union.

MARGARET YOUNG: Raising four boys on \$20 a week required ingenuity and spunk.

Margaret Mummary Young, 70, offers a young mother's perspective on the Depression. Her husband Bill (an occasional contributor to the Observer on historical subjects) was an electrician who had no work when construction came to a standstill. After several difficult years of very low-paying menial work, he got back on the road to economic recovery when he joined up with a new General Electric radio dealer as a radio installer and repairman.

My husband was a licensed electrician. He had worked with two different contractors, and up 'til the Depression they always had work. He was making good money, and we were getting along fine, with a nice apartment. We had had our first child in January, 1929. My husband's mother was with us, too—she didn't have anyone to support her.

Then, in 1930, building all dropped off. Buildings were left unfinished. Suddenly there was no work. People were not having electricity installed. For us suddenly there was just no money. We lost the nice apartment. The landlords held our furniture because we were behind on our rent.

We moved back in with my parents. They had a big house on Elizabeth Street, but it wasn't long before there were fourteen people living where three or four had been before: my brother and his family plus our growing family. There were others who'd drift in from time to time and stay a day or two, thinking they'd find work. My mother was always helping people out.

Our other three boys were born there over the next four years. We were given one room for ourselves and the children—that was the only way we could work it out. But the kids were small and good. The army cot made a good bed for two little boys, one at one end and one at the other.

My mother was a very good cook for large groups—you'd learn that in our house. In 1931 the nuns needed a cook at Mercywood, and she went to cook there. My dad, he felt so bad. He would help around the house all that he could. He had lost his job, too. He was a carpenter. It hurt him very much that he couldn't get work. He and I were able to talk things over. He had been brought up to feel that the man of the house did the work and brought home the bacon.

At that time my husband had found

work on State Street at the Calkins-Fletcher drugstore. He worked at the soda fountain making sandwiches and so forth for \$18 a week. Later he got a raise to \$20. There he was, a licensed electrician—he just hated it.

I made up my mind that as soon as we could find someplace we could move to, we'd leave my parents' house. We felt the children had so many bosses, they didn't know what was right and what was wrong. We rented a big house up on the Sunset Road hill by St. Thomas cemetery [now the lodge of Elks Pratt Lodge 322]. It was part of an unsettled estate. My cousin agreed to go in with us and pay part of the rent. It was a big house, and sometimes pretty chilly. There were some times we had to go without lights; the electric company didn't hesitate one minute at that point to cut you off. That house had a beautiful fireplace. If we didn't have any electricity, the kids said that didn't matter, we'd build a fire in the fireplace, and it was just like camping. You could keep a fire going in the fireplace and warm one room. You could cook in it.

When the house was sold, we had an awful time finding another place. Nobody would rent to us. Rent to people with four boys? Ugh! One lady gave us the most awful bawling out just for asking. We finally found a house on Second Street, not in good repair, for \$20 a month. We practically had to rebuild it, but nobody else had given us a chance. We enjoyed the neighborhood because everyone was in pretty much the same situation we were. The kids learned how to fix up and make things to play with. One son borrowed our neighbor's Monopoly set and made his own home-made game.

I wasn't ashamed about any of it; we weren't in that position because of anything we had done wrong.

The children grew up knowing you should put money aside, so you'd have something. This situation's going to happen again; that's something that bothers me right now.

When I was growing up, my dad's carpentry work was only in good weather. As a family we grew up knowing that spring, summer, and fall he'd have work, but we knew money didn't grow on trees. My dad and mother had lived on farms, and we all gardened. My parents did everything they could for us, and I believe in continuing that sort of thing for my children and grandchildren. I say, if there's anything I can do, let us know. I don't believe I would have thought of it if we hadn't been through the Depression.

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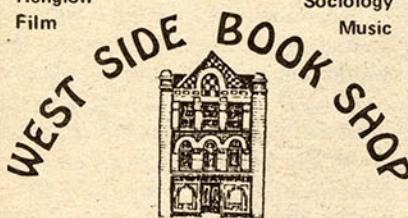
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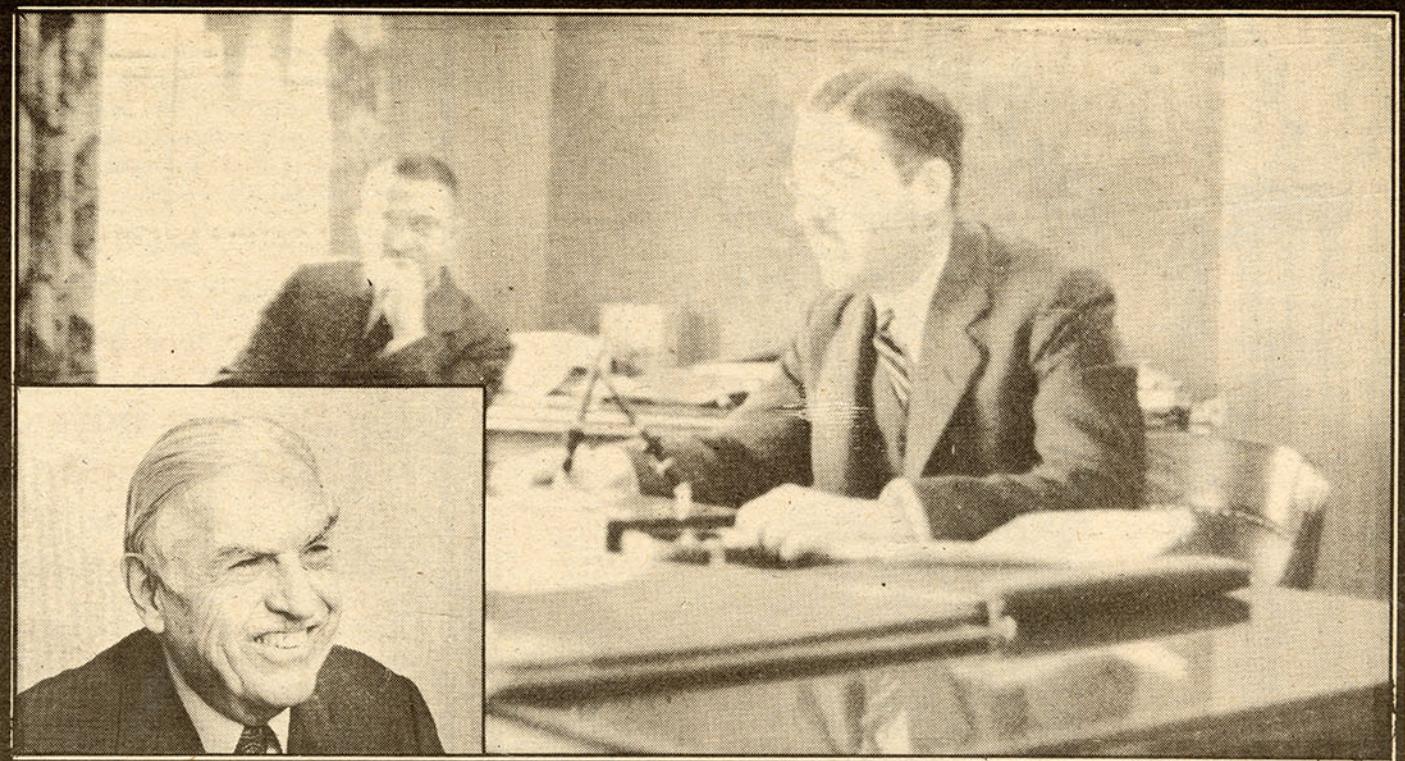


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NEIL STAEBLER:

A well-to-do businessman's son seeks answers to social problems.

Neil Staebler, 74, prefers to think of himself primarily as a businessman, though his name is familiar to Michiganders because of his long career as Democratic Party political advisor, National Committeeman, unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate (Romney defeated him in 1964), and, most recently, a controversial member of the Federal Elections Commission.

In 1929, Staebler told us, he was a "very junior junior partner" of the 50-year-old family coal business and low man on the totem pole of the Staebler-Kempf Oil Company, which sold wholesale and retail gasoline and oil. Both businesses dealt with necessities for which demand remained strong during the Depression years. So the bad times didn't seriously affect the Staebler family directly. Indirectly, however, family members were deeply involved. Neil's father, Ed, was mayor of Ann Arbor from 1929 to 1931, the early, Hoover-era Depression years before the federal government became involved in financing relief efforts. Local charities and municipalities had to shoulder the entire burden of unemployment relief, and Ed Staebler played a leading part in establishing work programs.

Neil, then a fledgling politico, was an interested but not always helpful adviser. When Ed, a Democrat, decided to run for the state legislature in 1932, Neil was his campaign manager. He remembers preparing and distributing widely an elaborate booklet outlining the country's problems and offering some innovative solutions. "It scared people," he recalled. "They didn't know they faced all those problems—let alone the solutions." He also stubbornly refused to put on chicken dinners to attract voters—a common practice in those days. As a result (in Neil's opinion), Ed Staebler lost by a few hundred votes—in 1932, a year in which it was hard for Democrats to lose. [In fairness to young Neil, it should be pointed out that Washtenaw County was so conservative that it went for Hoover, not Roosevelt, in that year.] Ed Staebler's successful career in local politics was

based on personal reputation and popularity, not favorable demographics.

The stock market crash of October 29, 1929, didn't have the immediate impact on the country that some people seem to recall. I remember that our initial reaction was surprise. You heard about people who had been wiped out; some who had been ruined in the crash were rumored to have committed suicide. But these stories always seemed to be about somebody else in another place. Here in Ann Arbor people might have been pinched a little, might have suffered modest setbacks. But mostly the event was a subject of gossip and mildly anxious speculation. It was a terrific surprise, though. Above all, it was contrary to expectations.

We had just come through a period when expert opinion predicted a New Era. If we saw hints that the economy were faltering, there were always well-reasoned explanations that the situation was temporary and that everything would turn out all right. There were hopeful words in the air. "A new economic day is dawning," the analysts said. "Don't worry." So against this background, the dramatic event of October was a stupendous shock.

1930 was a holding year. Business experienced a modest recovery; stocks went back up a bit. People had fair expectations. They were extremely reluctant to accept the possibility that something serious might happen. There were disquieting statistics, but people shied from recognizing their implications. It wasn't until the end of 1930 that real panic struck. Then, throughout 1931, we really began to feel the bite. People lost their jobs, took cuts in pay, shifted from one job to another, each shift representing a move downward on the economic scale. I had a friend in Detroit who was forced to change jobs four times in rapid succession. With each change we would go into Detroit to help him move into increasingly

The executive image: Neil Staebler, in his twenties, in the Staebler-Kempf Oil Company offices. Associate Paul Kempf (left) looks on.

humble homes. Young people and newlyweds moved in with their families. There was a lot of doubling up.

We in Ann Arbor were really unprepared to deal with hardship on a large scale. My father was mayor of Ann Arbor at that time, and I remember that the city had budgeted \$50,000 for relief for the whole year. It was all used up in one month. There was an archaic county relief program under a Poor Commissioner. My grandfather had been Poor Commissioner in his day. Back then they offered blue tickets to the needy, which could be exchanged for a meal. County relief in 1931 was not far removed from that sort of thing. Efforts in behalf of the distressed were carried on by the Salvation Army. And the women of the churches were helpful, too. My mother was much involved in work of that kind. All of this help was offered on a neighborly, informal basis. But by 1931 it was clear that that approach didn't work any more, and nobody knew what to do instead.

My father and I, with some others, began to look into the idea of unemployment insurance. There were two people we had heard of who were thinking along the same lines. One was the treasurer of Eastman Kodak and the other was a young professor at Michigan State named William Haber. [Editor's note: Haber, U-M Professor Emeritus of Economics, was long the dean of LSA.] We organized a conference and invited these two men to join us. The upshot was that a city was too small a unit for such a program to work. So again, we simply did not know what to do. The city instituted some make-work programs. If you study the bronze plaques imbedded in sidewalks around town, you may find some that date the sidewalks from 1930, '31, and '32. They were part of an Ann Arbor public works program that was a forerunner of the Federal WPA.

Ann Arbor came through the Great Depression experiencing less hardship than many communities—Detroit, for example. But it could not escape deep

feelings of discouragement and fear. Two statistics illustrate the gigantic size of the Depression. Today we define the poverty level as an income of \$6000 or less for a family of four. It is estimated that in 1979 11% of the population is at or under the poverty level. The 1930 census was the first ever to ask income level questions. At that time, the poverty level was defined as an income of \$1200 or less for a family of four. When the facts about income were extracted from the 1930 census, they showed that a whopping 68% of the population of the United States was at or below the poverty level. So when President Roosevelt later said that one-third of our people were "ill-housed, ill-clothed, and ill-fed," he was understating the case.

I had been to Russia in 1926, out of curiosity, mainly, and I had come back with two clear impressions. First, their system guaranteed full employment (though wages were low) and provided public housing, health care, protection for the elderly, paid vacations, and so forth. My second impression was of an extremely repressed society. Since my return, I had remained interested in the idea of social programs that would be buffers for the American people against economic distress, provided they could be developed in the context of our traditions of freedom. Norman Thomas seemed to me to be thinking along these lines, and I saw a good deal of him in those days.

Not knowing what to do about deeply depressing problems is a terrible thing. People's frustration came out in all kinds of ways. Coxie's Army marched from Ohio to Washington and the nation was torn apart by the Veterans' Bonus battle. Left-wing organizations formed. A right-wing putsch was discussed. On top of everything else, the Middle West was in the grip of a prolonged and devastating drought, with catastrophic dust storms. Even here in Ann Arbor, we could see the rich farms of Oklahoma, parts of Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, and Iowa blowing away as the great clouds of dust darkened our sky when they passed high over us, carried here by the prevailing winds.

The summer of 1932 was a time of deepest despair. Then, with the nomination of Roosevelt, there was a feeling that something new was going to happen. But from November until he took office in March, the situation only grew worse until Rudi Reichert, the state banking commissioner, closed the banks in Michigan a week before the national bank closings were ordered. We were so hungry for someone to tell us what to do; we so desperately needed to hear from people with new ideas. That, of course, proved to be Roosevelt's great talent. He cast a wide net to bring in all kinds of imaginative people with new approaches to our problems. He was not afraid of experimentation. He was willing to try new things and quick to discard them if they weren't working out. As matters continued to go downhill throughout the fall and winter, you nevertheless began to sense a wave of elation as the moment approached when the new President would take office.

I sat around the radio with my family, listening to President Roosevelt's inaugural address, his ringing words of hope. We were all weeping. To tell you the truth, I have difficulty controlling my emotions now, just remembering it.

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STU THAYER: The Depression gives a boy a grown-up perspective on life.

Stu Thayer, 53, experienced the Depression as a boy. Later he was graduated from the University of Michigan and entered the family insurance business. Now retired, he actively pursues many interests, including local history and particularly circus history, about which he is an authority.

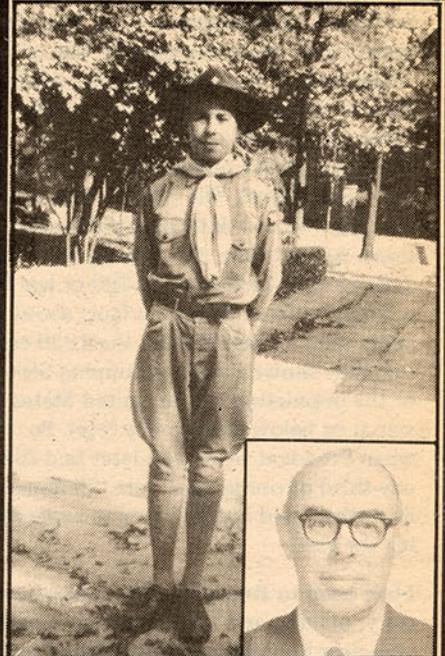


was three-and-a-half years old at the time of the stock market crash, so I grew up in the Depression. But the worst year for my father, I learned later, was 1925. He couldn't get any work at all when he graduated from the University here. He had been only the second graduate of Allegan High School to go to the University. His family, who were farmers, couldn't understand why he wasn't able to get a job with his fine degree in business administration. They thought their efforts to send him to college had been a waste of money. There was a severe recession in progress in the mid-twenties. My dad's first job was in an ice cream store. Later he sold Willis-Knights and Whippets at Kys Motor Sales down where the Town Club used to be on West Washington. Then he worked for an insurance company in Detroit and still later as an insurance salesman in Ann Arbor.

After he founded his own business in 1932, his struggle to get established was set back by a severe economic downturn in 1938. So my whole childhood spanned a period of varying degrees of economic distress.

We lived all over Ann Arbor in those years. We kept moving to take advantage of low rents we heard about or to escape rising rents. For a while we lived on Spring Street in a duplex, but when the rent was raised we moved out. A year later we had to move again. The old Spring Street place was vacant once more, and we moved back there. If we happened to be living near the campus, we always took in a student roomer for \$5 a week. At one time we moved in with my aunt and uncle for a while, and wherever we lived, my mother's brothers always seemed to be either moving in or moving out. Because of all the moving, I attended four elementary schools— Mack, Tappan, Eberbach, and Perry.

Our farm relatives provided us with a lot of our food, and my mother canned it. We ate a lot of things that stretch meat, like Spanish rice. It appeared so regularly at our table that to this day I can't stand the sight of it. Even so, we ate better than a lot of people I knew. A friend and I used to send away for premiums you would get for cereal box tops. I couldn't figure out how he always had a lot more box tops than me. Then one day I stopped over at his house as they were setting the lunch table with large bowls. Then the whole family sat down to a lunch of corn flakes and nothing else. It turned out they never ate anything for lunch but cereal. I asked my friend



Hand-me-down Scout uniform:
Stu Thayer inherited it from Joe Dillon, passed it on to Dick Creal.

what they ate for breakfast, and he said porridge.

People would come into town from nearby farms to sell vegetables, fruit, and milk door to door for less than store prices. A frequent and intriguing phenomenon at our back door was the appearance of hobos, drifters, or just men out of work asking for something to eat. We always gave them something.

My mother made a lot of our clothes. When it came to things like athletic equipment, we got it second hand from friends and passed it along to other kids when we were done with it. I got my Boy Scout uniform from Joe Dillon and I passed it on to Dick Creal, now a local attorney and the son of the former mayor. Near one place we lived, there was a large family with eight kids. None of them ever wore shoes during the summer. The minute school let out in June, the kids took off their shoes, and they never put them back on until September.

We never took a Sunday paper. That was considered a luxury even though it only cost a dime in those days. I remember my mother's contempt for a neighbor who was on the WPA and still got a Sunday paper. She felt that for anyone on "welfare" to buy one was immoral.

My dad went into the insurance business with a friend in 1932. The Ashley Insurance Agency was upstairs from Tom Newell's auto parts business on Ashley Street. Newell's sold equipment and parts to garages who financed these things. My dad's firm handled the insurance involved. He made \$25 a week. He was young in the hardest of those times, and he came out of it all successful. But I've known people just a little older than he who were doing well before the Depression and never did another thing after they suffered its set-backs. The experience seemed to completely wipe them out emotionally. They never could hack it again.

Years later, when I was in the Army during the Second World War, I saw what idleness can do to people. In the Army there were a lot of men in their late twenties, from cities mostly, who had never worked a day in their lives until they got into the Army. This idleness had had a profound effect on them. They weren't

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worth a damn. They didn't know how to do anything. They had no life vision. They were just nice bums.

From the age of twelve on I always had some kind of job, first caddying at 75¢ for eighteen holes. Later, for a number of years, I worked in grocery stores. Besides these jobs I always managed to pick up temporary work like unloading cases of root beer from a semi for Frei's Bottling and Distributing down on Miller, where Maynard Battery is now. Working with two men and another kid, it took us several hours to unload a truck. I got 50¢ for the whole job.

It's almost impossible for people my age to comprehend the low value of to-

day's money. I remember a house on Marshall Court where we lived for a while—a big seven- or eight-room place with ten-foot ceilings in the ground floor rooms. Our rent was \$18 a month. We had to heat it, of course, but coal couldn't have cost more than \$4 a ton at that time. When I started to play golf, you could buy clubs for \$2 apiece. Kids went to the movies for a dime, and they could choose from the double bills at the Michigan, Majestic, Wuerth, and Whitney theatres. The Michigan Theater had something called "Saturday Morning Pal Shows." You picked up a ticket at one of the several stores that gave them out, and you could see the show with a pal for 5¢ each. In 1949, I bought a very good brand-

new bicycle from the Western Auto Store on Huron Street for \$12. As late as 1940, I was earning a mere 18½¢ an hour working in a grocery store.

Isolated scenes from the thirties come to mind as I think back:

I'm six years old, and the 1932 Hoover Roosevelt Presidential campaign is on. A little boy comes up to me and says, "Who're you for? Hoover or Roosevelt?" If I give him the wrong answer, he hits me.

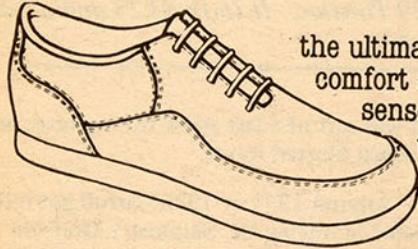
I see thirty or forty men clustered around a very small public works job. All but two are leaning on their shovels.

I'm playing tennis at somebody's private tennis court. I love to play there be-

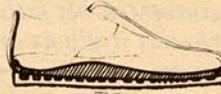
cause the whole place and the stylish owner look so elegant and Gatsbyish. But this day he comes out to tell us he has to sell the house, and we won't be able to play there anymore. He looks so unhappy, standing there in his well-cut ice-cream flannels. I feel terribly sad for him.

Down by the depot, I'm watching the freight trains go by, and they are covered with men. Bunches of men stand in every coal car. Still others are grouped in the open doors of the empty box cars. Something about their expressions make me think they have come from nowhere and are headed nowhere. I wave, and thirty hands wave back.

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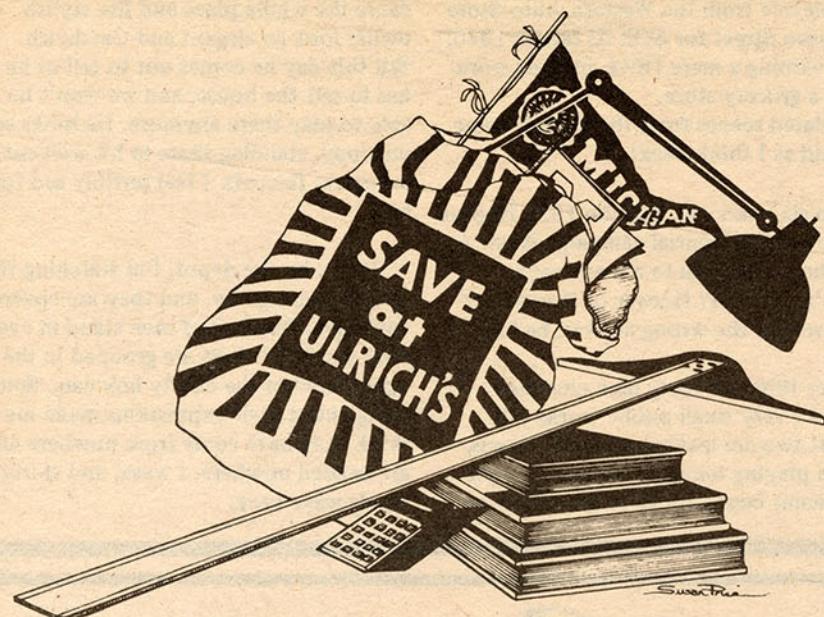
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ELSA GOETZ ORDWAY:
The Depression brought basic values
into focus and led to a satisfying farmer's life.



Home-made tractor: Carroll Ordway didn't have \$700 for a new tractor, so he converted his father's wrecked '29 Pontiac. It took \$125 and a lot of work, but it did as much as three horses.

For Elsa Goetz Ordway, 73, and her husband Carroll, the Depression presented challenges that ultimately worked out for the best. They love the farmer's life they've lived for the past 44 years. If the Depression hadn't disrupted their youthful plans, they never would have bought their farm.

We were married in summer, 1929. I worked in the university investment office, and Carroll worked at the R. P. clothing store on Main Street, a chain that sold top coats and suits. His boss told him that Carroll could manage the Ann Arbor store if there were an opening for him in Detroit. So we thought we were all set. I'd work for a year at the university and quit, and then just help out Saturdays at Carroll's store.

On October 3 my father was found dead, which was an awful shock. Then later that fall the clothing chain went bankrupt, and Carroll lost his job. All he could find was little jobs. He worked for the city for awhile, cutting wood and things like that. Then he worked for 30¢ an hour at the Barbecue Inn on State Street, where they had a grill outdoors and sold sandwiches. We inherited something from my father. With that money, we bought a house in town on Eberwhite. We were fortunate in that respect, though it was a shocking thing, my father dying so suddenly.

When you had a job in those days, they expected an awful lot of you. You had to work so hard for many reasons. You see, the bosses were under pressure, too. They were over a barrel in a way, too. Everybody was under pressure. One time I did a report for my boss the way I thought his secretary said he wanted it. He called me in and said it wasn't what he had in mind. He said, if you can't do it right, we'll get somebody else to do it. I didn't know if he was going to fire me or simply have somebody else in the office do it. I was so shocked, because I had been working overtime at no pay. I could hardly believe what I was hearing! I think

it was sort of a last straw for my boss, and he just blurted it out.

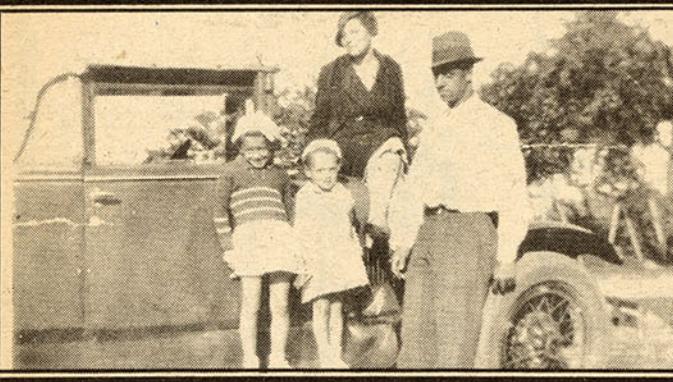
Around 1934 or 1935 Carroll got interested in buying Dr. Shipman's Golfside Riding Stable out there along the Huron River. We would buy only the horses, not the property. I wasn't sold on the idea, so we compromised and bought the farm [a 90-acre farm on Dancer Road near Dexter, where the Ordways still live]. Carroll had his horses, and I learned how to adjust to the farm. I was a green city girl and had a lot to learn. Carroll grew up on a farm and understood this sort of thing. We farmed with horses.

The hardest part of the Depression for us was after we moved to the farm. When we started out, we got one or two dollars a day for selling milk, and we had the mortgage to pay. If we had a calf to sell to market, we got \$18. It was what they call general farming. We had dairy cows mainly, some pigs, a few chickens, field crops, of course, some sheep . . . a little of everything. The money for milk was what we could depend on.

I had quit my regular job when we bought the farm; it was going to be such a big adjustment, being a good farmer's wife. After six months, they called me back to work part-time. That helped out an awful lot on the mortgage payments.

Carroll and I were taught that it's almost wicked to waste, so you have it kind of inborn in you to know how to make do. I learned a lot of canning—even meat. We brought our electric stove from Ann Arbor, but for a long time we didn't use it to save electricity. From the farm we had to pay telephone charges to Ann Arbor, either ten or fifteen cents. We would discuss it in detail—should we phone or wait 'til we go to town?

A lot of people will tell you that the Depression helped you have a different sense of values and realize that you can overcome some problems. It was a learning experience for young folks, but we know it was different for many of the elderly. You find out there are other things of value besides money. When we tell some of these things to the young folks today, they almost act like we're making them up.



The Hendersons: Viola, Bill and daughters Colleen and Elaine. The '28 Dodge convertible is a holdover from better times.

BILL HENDERSON:

Blacks were generally first fired, last hired.

Bill Henderson, 73, a life-long Ann Arbor resident, was a young black man working as a fraternity-house janitor when the Depression hit. When his regular job was eliminated, he worked on local WPA projects for several years. As times grew better, he made more money doing odd jobs and day work for private families; eventually he became janitor at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, a position he held for 32 years. He continues to work there part time.

I was working in a garage for about four years right in the Depression. Things had gotten pretty rough at the time. In fact, I would have made more money if I'd been on relief than by working. I was making about \$12 a week for working six days around the garage, and guys of WPA, they'd make \$12 for three days. I never got grocery orders. They got grocery orders and stuff like that.

Then the guy who owned the garage went broke, and I lost the job. So I went on relief. WPA. I was on direct relief for a short time, then they had you work it out, worked at the courthouse, on the lawns, stuff like that, that kind of work. They'd saw down the trees and we'd have to take the stumps out. From then on, it was sidewalks and sewers. I put a lot of sidewalks in, tore up a lot of sidewalks. You had a sledge hammer, you know, break it out with a sledgehammer. I ran a cement mixer for a long time, putting curbs and gutters in. I put in curbs and gutters from one end of Stadium to the other, pretty near.

I was better off on relief than I was before. If you went out to try to get a job anywhere, they wanted to pay you 25¢ an hour, like garages, anything. I worked on the WPA a long time. It got so bad around here, you couldn't get jobs.

I kinda organized like a union on WPA because one time I was out of pay and couldn't tell when we was gonna get paid. We didn't know when payday was gonna be. They'd tell you when payday was, and you'd expect to get money like that, like Thanksgiving you were gonna buy a turkey or chicken or whatever. You didn't get paid that time, the money didn't come in, so maybe you'd get a turkey a few days after Thanksgiving. Had a lot of that going on until relief workers started raising Cain. A bunch of them organized, and people called them communists 'cause they had kind of a strike. It was for the regular payday, wasn't for no raises, just the payday. If you did get a regular payday, it might be two or three days late, anyway.

I can't say I actually went hungry. I

didn't have maybe the best of food, but I'd make sure I had something. I'd eat—cheaper food or something like that. Of course, when you were on relief, they gave you a lot of canned rice and canned beef. The beef was something the government canned up. I remember years before I ever got on relief guys trying to sell that stuff. I'd buy some; I didn't think it was too bad at first. Maybe give 'em 15 or 20¢ a can for the stuff. But I think they might have boiled that stuff first and took out whatever was in it, the good broth or whatever, and canned it. Couldn't even give it to the dog. The dog wouldn't eat it.

You didn't have any regular life you could call your own, where you could go out and do something. It was pretty much like being in prison. If you had a quarter or 50¢ in your pocket, you had some money. So many times you needed money and didn't have it. They used to sell hamburger sometimes for three pounds for a quarter, but you didn't have a quarter. I seen guys, real estate men, things like that, on WPA, carrying water. They'd lost everything. Pretty rough.

Blacks was always the first ones to be laid off and the last ones to get the job. I remember when I was a kid, there was black guys on the garbage trucks. Next thing the Depression come along and them guys—I don't imagine they was making much money, but they probably made more than the relief—they stayed right on them jobs. Then some guy named O'Connor got the contract to pick up the garbage. I guess he was from the South or something. He kept the blacks for a while, then finally fired them all and put white on. He wasn't paying them nothing, and they quit that job and went on relief. Then he got the black guys back again. He had a lot of trouble with them. He was trying to drive them all the time.

I know white guys that got off relief and went to work for the gas company, construction, digging ditches. I couldn't get no job out there and neither could anybody else. Not if you was black, you couldn't work for that gang.

There was a group, I forget what they called themselves. People got to calling them communists. A lot of them kinda banded together, and they had a newspaper, and they had dances, interracial dances. We never had that before.

I can't say the Depression's done so much to me. It might have been worse some other places. I mean, I never had no money, but I can't see where, well, it was just the Depression. It was here, it had to happen, like going to war. I survived it. It made me know enough to hang onto money if I could get some kind of money. Stand on your own as long as you can.

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GEORGE WEDEMEYER: To stable small-town folk the Twenties were unsettling and the Thirties disillusioning.

George Wedemeyer, 77, became interested in the new phenomenon of radio as a young man and started a radio business, which became the Wedemeyer Electronic Supply Company, presently located on South Industrial Highway. It's now one of the largest electronics wholesalers in the state.

You hear people talk about the "Roaring Twenties," and part of what they are referring to is the roaring economy in which everybody was supposed to be making money. That was never true, you know. Long before the crash in 1929 working people were having their ups and downs. In 1920, when I was eighteen years old, I had a job

as a wireless operator on a ship. I made \$125 a month plus room and board. Two years later I was making \$90 a month for an identical job.

Long before October 29, 1929, there were signs that something funny was going on. I remember meeting a friend in '26 or '27, right after he had sold his house. "George," he told me. "I just sold my house for \$10,000 with \$500 down payment. Now you and I know that house isn't worth it. What's going on?" Houses here were selling for more and more than they were worth. This made for a kind of credit inflation which contributed a mental factor to the coming problems.

But, you know, you can't begin to understand the deep depression of mind

that people here experienced when the bad times came unless you understand the things they believed in at that time, understand their character. We respected our parents. We respected our teachers; to some degree we even loved them. Everybody belonged to some kind of church. I don't remember ever hearing anybody speak disparagingly of teachers, family, police, or religion. We were convinced we lived in the best place in the world; all around us were opportunities. All it took was hard work to get ahead. I never heard the word "rights" in those days. But we talked a lot about responsibility. A good life meant working to meet your responsibilities.

Getting fired was a terrible disgrace. A loving mother wouldn't sympathize with her son if he got fired. She would



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feel he was disgraced, and, as his mother, she was disgraced, too. The thinking was that if he were honest and a hard worker, he wouldn't have been fired. So when in 1926 Ford Motor laid off 20,000 hard-working, honest people, we had to think about things a little differently. A little later I was working in Ann Arbor at a firm with five employees. When the owner felt he had to cut back, I was the one laid off because I made the most money. I guess he thought I had saved up enough to make it through the bad times. Anybody in a spot like that looked around for any work he could get. I cleaned spittoons in a saloon for awhile. No one I knew felt above any job.

As the situation got worse, people were very helpful to one another. The family was very strong back then. It was considered perfectly O.K. for young people to live at home until they were married or even after. If circumstances got tough once you were out in the world, the logical thing to do was to move back in with your family. As the Depression got worse a lot of young people did that—even married couples.

The crash dramatized the Depression—brought it on faster. I didn't lose anything in it; I didn't have any money in the stock market. But in time I began to feel it in the new radio business I started in 1929. It didn't take very long for every business to feel that their customers were short of money. What in hell made everybody in the country unload their stock on the same morning? I've never understood it.

Pretty soon my customers for radio parts didn't have the money to pay me. We used barter to keep going. One time I accepted two jars of home-canned beef as part payment on an order. I remember people were very honest. If they couldn't pay, they said so. They were careful not to take on a debt if they couldn't foresee repaying it in full in a reasonable time. We swapped all the time. I got a stove in trade for some parts. I put radio aerials on every apartment in the new Kingsley Apartments, and instead of money, I got a rent-free apartment for myself.

Ann Arbor came out of that period better than a lot of cities. We never had a bank failure here, partly because George Burke, my father's law partner, and Rudi Reichert, state banking commissioner, worked out a merger of the shaky banks which had the effect of balancing off their strengths and weaknesses. Only the State Bank (the old German-American Bank) was considered strong enough to go it alone. City employees, like firemen and policemen, were paid, and university employees weren't cut back, so that made for stability in town. Our business made it through that time. My wife and I built our first house in 1937. But we were still very frugal. Our first priority was paying for that house in full.

You never get over an experience like the Great Depression. Seeing waste makes me sick to this day. Last summer I was at a picnic where I saw little children throwing away parts of their hotdog buns. It hurt me to see that. In the worst of the times back then, we never had anything but oatmeal for breakfast. And our dog never ate anything but oatmeal any time. There was no Alpo for him!

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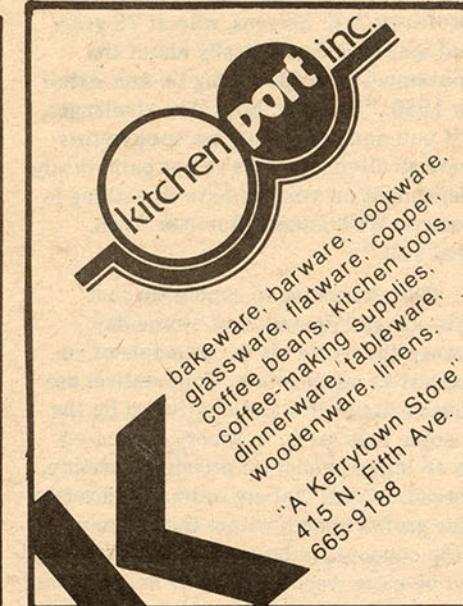
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Ann Arbor's Alternative to Capitalism

More than eighty cooperative ventures in town make Ann Arbor a leading co-op city in America.

"One function of cooperatives is to stand as a warning to the capitalist way of doing things," says retired U-M professor A.K. Stevens, who at 78 years old speaks enthusiastically about the movement he helped bring to Ann Arbor in 1936. "By golly, boys," he challenges, "if you don't shape up, we cooperators have an alternative. We're not pathetically dependent on you, we have something in reserve. We'll knock your ears down, that's all."

The alternative to capitalism that Stevens still dreams may "some day sweep the world" is the principle of cooperative organization. Cooperatives are businesses owned and controlled by the people they serve. In theory, the co-op is an improvement on private ownership, because funds that are ordinarily diverted for profits remain within the business. The cooperative business is also supposed to be more responsive to the needs of the people it serves, because they control it.

Old wave and new wave co-ops

Observers of Ann Arbor's more than 80 cooperative enterprises identify two distinct groups: the *old wave* co-ops, like the credit union that was started in the Thirties, and the *new wave* co-ops, generally smaller and more political, that were started in a resurgence of cooperative spirit during the early Seventies.

Cooperatives sprung up all over the United States in the mid-Thirties as a response to the Depression's disastrous economic impact. The first Ann Arbor co-op was the Ann Arbor Cooperative Society, founded in 1936 as an outgrowth of a coal-buying club set up by University of Michigan students and faculty. Society members were successful in reducing their fuel costs by pooling their coal orders and cooperatively unloading carloads of coal. In 1937, the Society opened a credit union, and in 1939, a cooperative food store was opened on the corner of Mosley and South Main. The co-op credit union became the local co-op movement's anchor in the mid-Fifties when growing competition from supermarket chains, like Kroger and A&P, forced the closing of the co-op's food store.

The new wave co-ops, typified by the cooperative food stores that line Fourth Avenue across Catherine Street from the Farmer's Market, are dedicated to improving the quality of their members' lives through alternative styles of work and consumption, with the workers controlling their workplace and stocking on

ly those foods they feel fit into their store's purpose, rather than responding to consumer demand.

The food stores keep their prices down, especially on staples like dried fruit, nuts, and bulk grains by buying bulk foods directly from the cooperative-run People's Wherehouse, eliminating costs added to most retail stores' prices by distribution middlemen, food processing, and packaging. (Wheat germ scooped by hand out of a plastic tub at the People's Food Co-op sells for 21¢ a pound. Kroger sells a pound of wheat germ in a plastic sack decorated with rustic scenery for 93¢.)

Co-ops also offer unusual items that may not be available anywhere else, like the bulk grains at the Food Co-op or the exotic spices, teas, and herbal remedies available through the Herb and Spice Co-op.

Even though the old wave's emphasis

on growing large enough to compete with established businesses conflicts with the new wave's inclination towards operating on a smaller scale, the groups have a common strategy: changing the pattern of business ownership and the means by which services are provided to their members.

The principle of economic democracy

The official cooperative philosophy is a blend of economic activism and progressive social thought. The 350 million members of the International Cooperative Alliance recognize a set of "Cooperative Principles" that define the cooperative program and spirit. The main features of these principles recall the democratic impulses that play an important part in

American liberal thought. Discrimination on any grounds is prohibited. Cooperatives are required to cooperate with other groups in the movement and operate under a one-member, one-vote system that cooperators refer to as "Economic Democracy." Certain financial rules are also spelled out: Investors in co-ops can make little or no monetary profit on their investments, and any surplus the co-op accumulates must be plowed back into the business or distributed to its members.

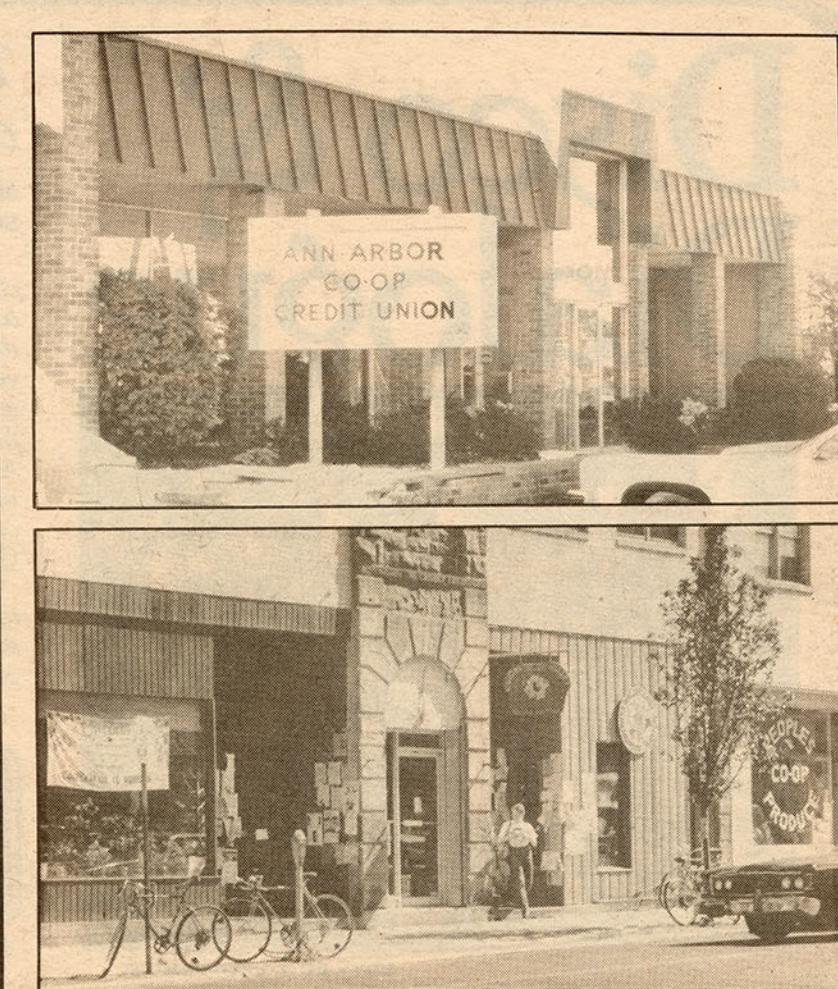
These principles can be applied to a business of almost any type or scale. Housing co-ops, for example, range in size from Co-op City in the Bronx, with 50,000 inhabitants, to Ann Arbor's Inter-Cooperative Council, a non-profit organization that owns 22 houses scattered around town.

The ICC was started in the late 1940's in response to a tight housing market. Stewart Kohl, coordinator of the locally-based North American Students of Co-operation, explained the ICC's success in providing low-cost housing as a result of its ability to keep houses off the Ann Arbor housing market "treadmill."

"The average ownership of a rental property in Ann Arbor lasts five years," Kohl told me. "The seller takes a profit each time the unit changes hands, raising the price of the property. Each sale raises the monthly mortgage payments the owner must make on the house and therefore, the rent." After the ICC has held onto a house for a number of years, its monthly costs are significantly lower than the market rate for similar housing, making it possible for the members to enjoy low rents. While it's difficult to compare rates between ICC co-ops and privately owned rental housing, because the room charges include board and because actual room charges are determined in house meetings at the co-op, our analysis shows that a single bedroom, usually inhabited by two people, costs around \$230/month, or right at the bottom of the range of similar housing that is privately owned.

Housing co-ops are also formed as a defense against the possible sale of a unit. A group of residents of Huron Towers on Fuller Road, concerned that the bankrupt complex might be sold to a developer, who could raise the rents beyond their means or turn the units into expensive condominiums, have formed a tenant's organization to investigate purchasing the Towers as a cooperative.

Kohl described the steady growth of cooperatives in the Seventies as the result of a growing realization that the private sector of the economy was not always the best way to provide for certain public needs. "I don't think many people argue



Old wave and new: the Ann Arbor Co-op Credit Union was an outgrowth of socialistic impulses spurred by the Depression; the Fourth Avenue food co-ops (below) are a product of the social spirit of the early Seventies.

that privately-owned oil companies are the best way to distribute oil to the consumer any more," he said. "It's a small logical step from there to realizing that the private ownership of housing and the resulting continual price increases, with no change in the quality of the product, is not the best way to provide us with housing."

Where co-ops work

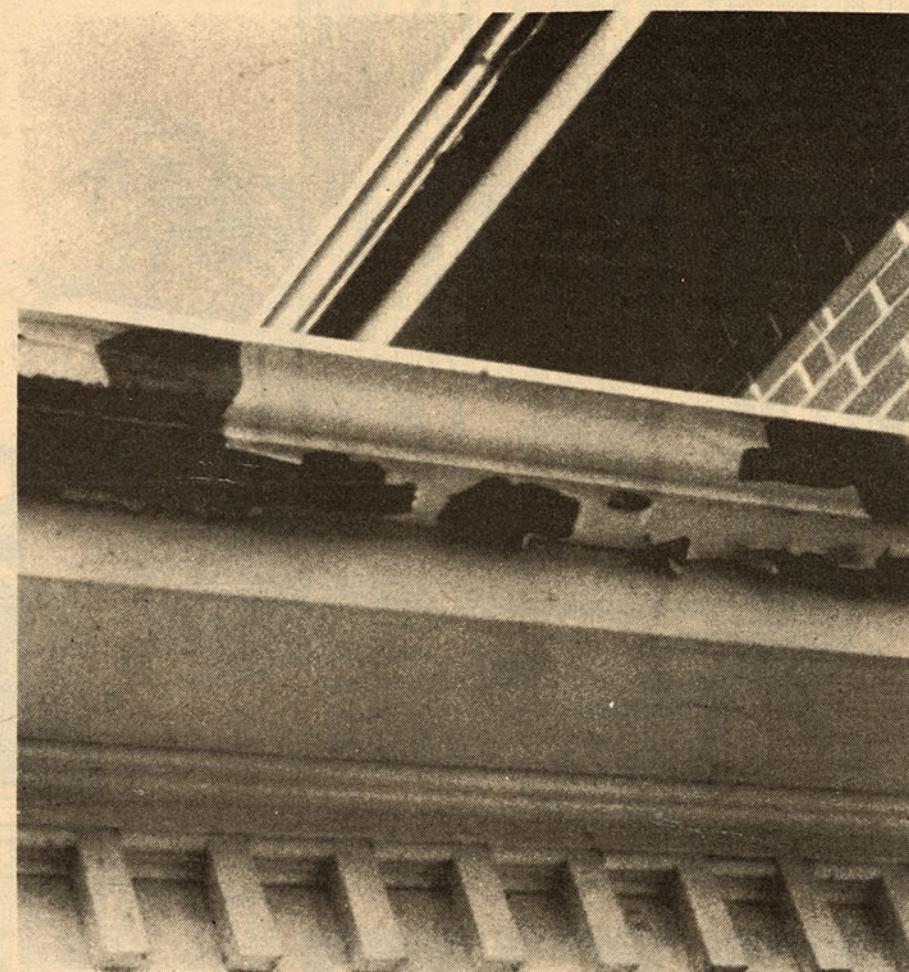
Cooperative ventures are most successful when they move into a market where the mark-up on goods is typically high or where the privately-owned businesses are doing a bad job of providing services. Ann Arbor's housing co-ops, which include large developments like the 350-unit Arrowwood Hills Cooperative as well as the ICC, have been successful because they have managed to keep housing costs down. Arrowwood rents range from \$175/month for a one-bedroom apartment to \$235/month for a four-bedroom apartment. Larger cooperative developments, like Arrowwood, are usually built with financial support from HUD, but with privately-owned one-bedroom apartments costing at least \$200/month, Arrowwood provides some of the cheapest housing in Ann Arbor for low- or middle-income families.

A local co-op that has received national attention for its ability to compete successfully in the marketplace is Co-op Auto on South Industrial Highway. It costs \$100 to become a member of the cooperative. Members are entitled to a 20% discount on parts and labor for repair work done at the co-op. The discounted rates are the lowest in town for shops employing certified mechanics and servicing a wide range of makes and models. The members also vote in the annual election of the co-op's board of directors. Since the board determines who is hired to run the business and how the shop is run, the member/customer can have considerable influence over how his or her vehicle will be treated.

Another factor in the local growth of the co-op movement is that cooperatives seem to thrive in academic communities like Ann Arbor. "Academics understand what 'Economic Democracy' means, and it appeals to them," Kohl told me. "They want to be involved, they want to have their say in the way things are run, and they like community-based operations, like cooperatives."

The level of co-op activity in Ann Arbor equals that of any area of the country, including such hotbeds of cooperative activism as Berkeley and Madison. Area residents can take advantage of over 80 different cooperative ventures, including eight credit unions, one of which serves members of the Ann Arbor Cooperative Society exclusively; a wide variety of food-buying and food-producing co-ops; housing co-ops that provide shelter for thousands of Ann Arborites; over 30 nursery and day-care cooperatives, and a host of service co-ops, like Co-op Optical and Co-op Auto.

Ann Arbor cooperatives have proven that they can provide goods and services usually considered the province of privately owned businesses. If in the dark—or even the bright—days ahead, private ownership should look less and less attractive, Ann Arbor has the co-op alternative ready in the wings. □



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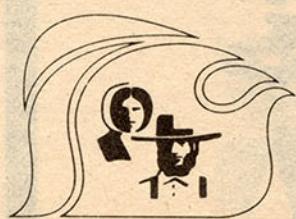
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From Political Cartoonist to Apple Farmer

When syndicated cartoonist Arthur Poinier needed more exercise, he found it by revitalizing an apple orchard just west of town.

By JOHN H. O'BRIEN

About twenty-five years ago, Arthur B. Poinier, an editorial cartoonist for the *Detroit News*, whose syndicated work appears nationwide, developed some health problems. His physician advised him to stick to a recommended diet and get plenty of exercise.

Poinier decided to find a small country place requiring outdoor chores. After a lengthy search, he purchased a farm house of ten acres at 5470 Miller Road, on the northeast corner of Miller and Zeeb Roads.

The plan worked. Today Poinier, three years into retirement, is not only a healthy, energetic 68-year-old, but the successful producer of apples and cider from some 500 trees.

The enterprise grew from scratch. The farm was badly neglected. Its 350 apple trees were diseased, and the county agricultural agent told Poinier he had two choices: have the trees cut down as hazardous to neighboring farms or bring them back to health.

Poinier chose to go into the apple business, of which he knew nothing. He was a Chicago city slicker, he says. While commuting 100 miles a day five days a week to the *News*, he spent nights, early mornings, and weekends in the orchard cutting off diseased limbs, clearing out the underbrush, and planting new trees. It was slow work, but he succeeded. Today he markets an average of 1,000 bushels of 21 varieties of apples and 3,000 gallons of cider per season. He puts in no sales effort whatever; word of mouth sells his crop, and many customers return year after year.

"The supermarket chains took over the apple business thirty years ago and grew or would buy only three varieties: MacIntosh, Red Delicious, and Jonathans," Poinier told me. "They are all reds and look pretty. I think Delicious apples taste like wood pulp. I have some rare varieties here—Baldwins, Rhode Island Greenings, Wagner, Wolf River, Wine-apples, Dutches, you name it."

Restoring the apple trees to marketable production wasn't enough for Poinier; he decided he would add cider to his production and thus convert less than Grade No. 1 fruit into an asset instead of a loss.

He had no cider press and no place to put one though. Modern presses cost sev-

eral thousand dollars. But a university graduate student living in a tenant house on Poinier's farm came up with a solution to this problem.

The student's father owned a farm machinery business in Montrose, Pennsylvania, in the northwest corner of the state. At his son's request, the father posted a "Wanted: Cider Press" notice on his store bulletin board. A local farmer saw it and offered to sell an 1876 press for \$75. The student drove to Montrose with his wife, loaded the disassembled 4-ton press on his father's machinery truck, and delivered it to Poinier. Then he drove the truck back to Montrose and flew back to Michigan. Total cost of the operation: \$480.

So now Poinier had a 100-year-old, rusted, worn-out, torn-down press. He spent \$10,000 building a cider mill to house the press. He and the graduate student did most of the work, although neighbors and others who heard of the project contributed many skills and much labor.

Some parts were unobtainable and had to be manufactured individually. The Ann Arbor Machinery Company on Jackson Road solved a lot of problems. The press bearings were useless, and the machinery company suggested using old-fashioned bird's eye maple bearings instead of modern metal. A welding class at Washtenaw Community College, overjoyed to get welding material for practice, would only take a \$10 payment.

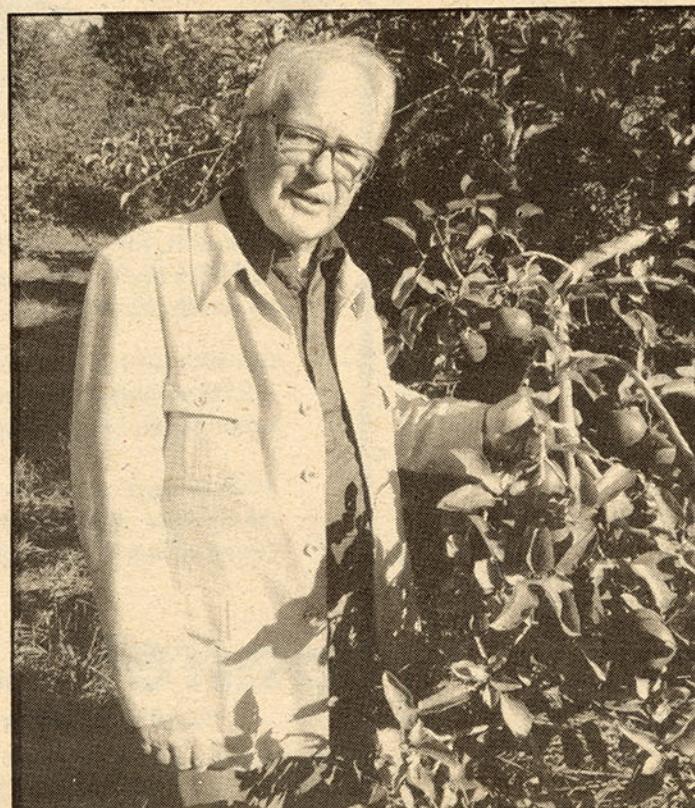
There were dozens of other problems, but in 1972, two years and \$12,000 later, Poinier had a spanking new cider mill and a completely overhauled press.

While all this was going on, Poinier was still producing daily cartoons at *The Detroit News* and six cartoons a week for syndication. After retirement he continued the syndication until very recently, using an artist's studio in the tenant's house.

What to do now that he no longer draws cartoons and the apple and cider business is well organized? He is painting in oils and does water colors at the farm and at his summer home on a Lake Michigan sand beach. □

Above: One of Arthur Poinier's many syndicated cartoons. He has spent eleven years at the Detroit Free Press and 25 years at the News.

Below: Arthur Poinier today, among his apple trees that produce 3,000 gallons of cider a season.



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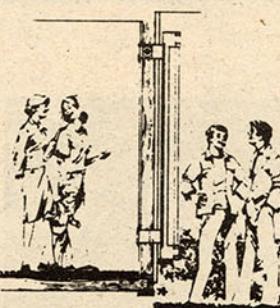
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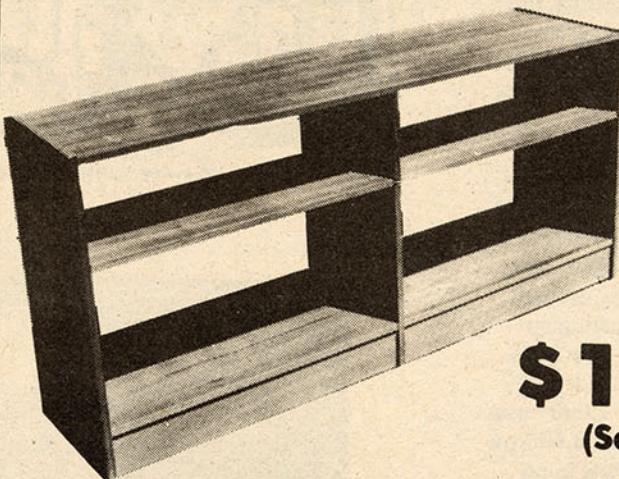


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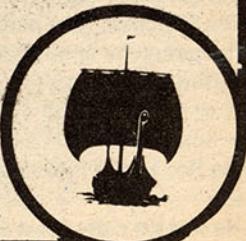
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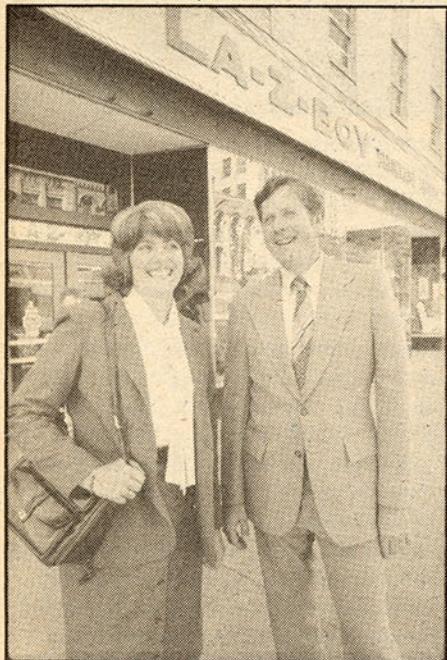
CHANGES

Muehlig's store to move and expand.

Starting in February, Main Street will have a significant new addition in the 200 block between Washington and Liberty. Tom and Nelson DeFord of Muehlig's have announced that they will lease the old Woolworth's store, presently occupied by La-Z-Boy Showcase Shoppe, starting January 1. They expect to have the store renovated and their stock moved for a February 1 opening.

Difficulties in loading and access made the downtown location a problem for La-Z-Boy. Customer pick-up of large pieces of furniture is a sizable part of its business.

Tom DeFord is Muehlig's vice-president and general manager. The firm's president is Tom's father, Nelson, who is a recently retired development officer of National Bank and Trust. Both have had long merchandising careers at Penney's. The De Fords purchased Muehlig's in spring, 1976, following the death of its



*In front of their new location:
Sue and Tom De Ford.*

Assorted Notes

Real estate developer and property manager Peter Allen is studying the possibility of turning the upper floors of The Earle at Washington and Ashley into one-bedroom luxury condominiums. Lenders are skeptical about the demand for downtown condominium apartments in the \$80,000 - \$90,000 range. But Allen thinks there's a market for them if historical amenities are provided. The Earle could have exposed brick accent walls, finished plank floors, and touches like old woodwork and pressed metal ceilings. The Earle, a former hotel, could accommodate six units per floor, with a living-dining area, separate kitchen, and bedroom in each. Interested parties may contact Peter Allen at 995-5221.

Here's one perspective on the recent acquisition of the National Ann

owner, Alfred Diez, who had worked there since the Twenties. Tom's wife Sue is part owner and fashion buyer.

The De Fords have been updating Muehlig's fashion merchandising mix, which had appealed mainly to older women. Those changes will be stepped up at the new location, with more junior clothing including brands like Levi sports-wear, more lingerie, and younger dress lines in the \$40 to \$50 range. The table linen department will be expanded, and fabrics may eventually be enlarged in the basement.

Physically the Woolworth building offers several advantages: It has far more sales area (17,000 square feet on the main floor and lower level, compared with 6,000 square feet total at the old store). Having more space on each floor avoids the psychological problem of how to induce customers to use an elevator or climb stairs to reach upper floors. The Woolworth's Building, erected in 1949, is not without a certain Art Deco charm. It has terrazzo floors, interesting metal banistering, unfortunately, partially painted over.

Expansion of departments and floor area will be gradual, according to Tom De Ford. An elevator complying with barrier-free handicap regulations won't be ready until next fall or winter.

One victim of the move is likely to be the venerable Muehlig name. Miss Bertha Muehlig, a local legend for her charity, took over the dry goods store in 1911. Though many Ann Arborites, old and young, have great sentimental attachment to the Muehlig name, they tend to view the store as a quaint Ann Arbor institution, not a place to buy clothes for themselves. The new store will probably be called De Ford's.

"We're not going to try to be a Goodyear's or a Kline's," says Tom De Ford, a handsome six-and-a-half footer known for his enthusiasm. "We'll carry different lines. We'll emphasize personal service. And we'll be the only locally-owned and operated store of that size downtown."

Arbor Corporation (parent holding company of Ann Arbor's second largest bank, National Bank and Trust) by the Detroit National Corporation (parent holding company of Michigan's biggest bank, National Bank of Detroit). Big Detroit banks are threatened by the Michigan National system, which is expanding rapidly state-wide. Detroit banks are eager to develop their holdings outside the Detroit market area in order to maintain their competitive positions in the state. So they're looking for acquisitions in medium-sized markets like Ann Arbor, especially when Michigan National has already penetrated those markets, as it has in Ann Arbor. In such cities locally-owned banks (like Huron Valley and Ann Arbor Trust here) are inviting targets for speculation.

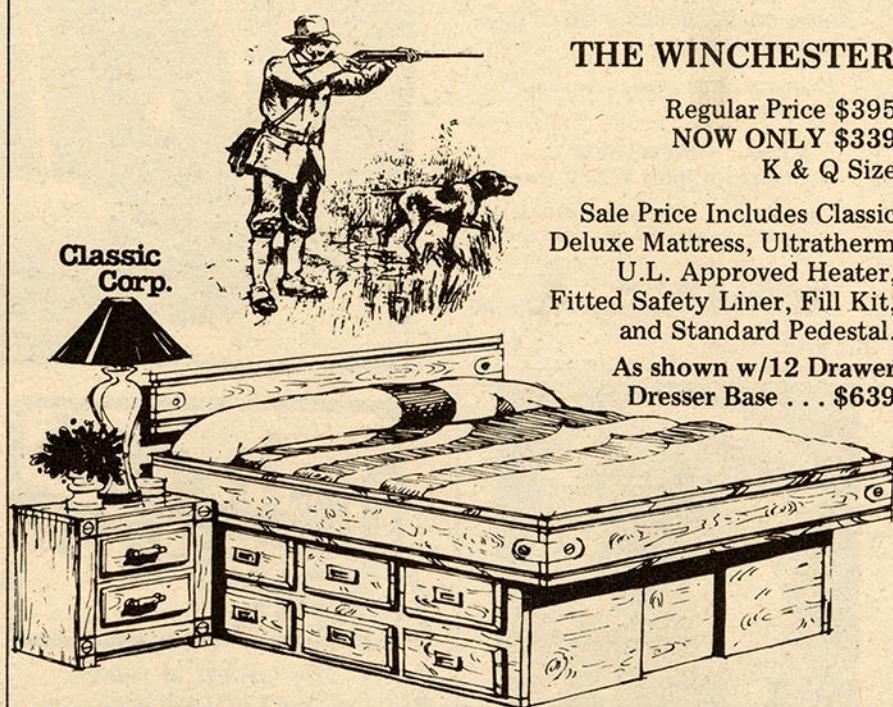
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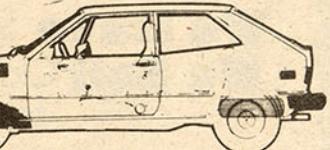
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CHANGES/continued

More Assorted Notes

Bill Stamoulis, for eight years a downtown fixture as the proprietor-cook of Bill's Coffee Cup at East Liberty and South Fourth Avenue, has sold the business and joined the auditing department of Great Lakes Federal Savings. His regular customers threw an exuberant farewell party for him in August.

The new owners are Van and Barbara Batsakes. "We've been in the bar business 15 years," Van told us, "and we decided to change our hours." The Batsakeses now arrive at work at 5:45 a.m. to prepare for a 6:30 opening. They leave at 6:30 p.m. after clean-up.

They don't plan major changes for the time being; the place already has a devoted clientele. "65% of our customers are regulars who come here two, three times a day," Van said. "It's a social thing, especially in the morning . . . a little bit of small talk to get the day started." The lunch counter may eventually stay open past 5 p.m. to take advantage of increased downtown traffic. "There was never this much activity when I left town for California three years ago," Van recalled.

Donna Lilyhorn, a waitress at Bill's for several years, has recently gone into business for herself, taking over the lunch counter in the County Building.

New restaurant inspired by antique mantels.



Dennis Serras is a young, flamboyantly-mustachioed restauranteur with a successful track record as a partner and manager of Maude's, Real Seafood, D. Dennison, and the two Real Seafood markets. Most recently, Serras, together with investor John R. McMullen, has taken over the restaurant facilities in the Briarwood Hilton—a three-meals-a-day, seven-days-a-week operation quite different from Serras' downtown restaurants. McMullen is the Briarwood Hilton's owner and the major landowner and developer in the South State-Eisenhower area.

Inspired by the carved turn-of-the-century fireplace mantels at Reynold Lowe's Materials Unlimited, Serras wanted to create the subdued atmosphere of the private reception rooms in late Victorian mansions. When Materials Unlimited was destroyed by fire last summer, Serras had Terry Flagg of the Weber Company in Cincinnati outfit the interior. Flagg used rust-colored fabrics, dark

wood booths, lots of plants from Saguaro Plants, and reproductions of Old Master and Impressionist paintings. The bar, in contrast, is bright, with natural light, and quite contemporary in feel.

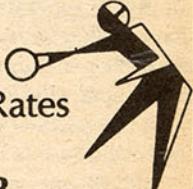
The new restaurant, named Mantels, offers four different menus: breakfast, lunch, dinner, and Sunday brunch. Lunch is strong on burgers (ranging from \$2.95 to \$3.95), unusual salads (\$3.25 to \$4.50) similar to those at Maude's, and vegetarian specialties. Dinner entrees (priced from \$7.25 to \$14.95 with soup, candied carrots, and French bread), include roast beef with Yorkshire pudding (\$9.95) and Beef Wellington (\$11.50), both seldom encountered in Ann Arbor. Sunday brunch entrees, priced from \$6.25 to \$9.75, include a trip to a cold buffet that features ice carvings, fresh fruit, lox and cream cheese and bagels, and English trifle, along with the usual Danish and breads.

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New developments at Maynard & William: Renaissance expands . . .

On Maynard at William, despite the problems created this summer by habitués of William Street pinball parlors and other hangers-around, several stores are establishing new or enlarged facilities.

Renaissance, a firm which imports and retails high-fashion natural-fabric tailored clothing in a classic vein, has moved from its small space on the ground floor of Maynard House into the former Centicore Book Shop space down the street at 336 Maynard. Most of Renaissance's stock for men and women is designer clothing from European makers—not the instantly recognizable biggies interested mainly in promoting their names, but designer-stylists on a smaller scale who like to stay in touch with clothing production in factories, design rooms, and on the sales floor.

Owner Roger Pothus, 33, has outfitted the new store, four times the size of the old one, with numerous elegant appurtenances such as oak counters and showcases, brass railings, and leaded-glass lighting. The selection of womenswear has been greatly expanded to include dresses, lingerie, footwear, and accessories as well as sportswear.

Pothus is an articulate, charming type, very well dressed in an easy-going way. He told us he started in the ready-to-wear business as a packaging major at MSU over a decade ago. At that time miniskirts were big in his native New York, while MSU coeds were wearing dyed-to-match Pendleton sweater and skirt sets. When a friend bet he couldn't sell a miniskirt in East Lansing, he took up the challenge and successfully sold

the trendy garments out of a suitcase.

Upon graduation, Pothus became involved in part ownership of the Ann Arbor franchise of Paraphernalia women's ready-to-wear boutiques from 1968 to 1972, and then started Sans Souci, a women's shoe store. Seven years ago he opened Renaissance as a sportswear boutique with jeans and shirts in the \$20 to \$30 range, then considered quite high. When other specialty stores entered that market, he went for a higher-priced one. Shirts at Renaissance today, for instance, range from \$30 to \$80, dresses from \$50 to \$200, and suits from \$300 to \$650.

Who buys these elegantly-constructed clothes, we asked Pothus. Half his customers are local professionals, half are from out of town, including a good number of wealthy foreign students, and there are about a hundred regular clients who know the store and its staff well and order by phone. For foreign students from South America and the Middle East, the same clothes offered at Renaissance can easily cost twice as much at home because of double-duty tax and value-added tax. As a result, business is brisk when their even wealthier parents come to Ann Arbor from abroad for graduation ceremonies and leave with purchases that run into the thousands of dollars.

Pothus isn't worried about the economy affecting his business for the worse. Ann Arbor lifestyles are becoming more cosmopolitan and fashion-conscious, he feels—as evidenced by the boom in finer restaurants. And the gas crisis has caused people to look more towards local social functions for entertainment.

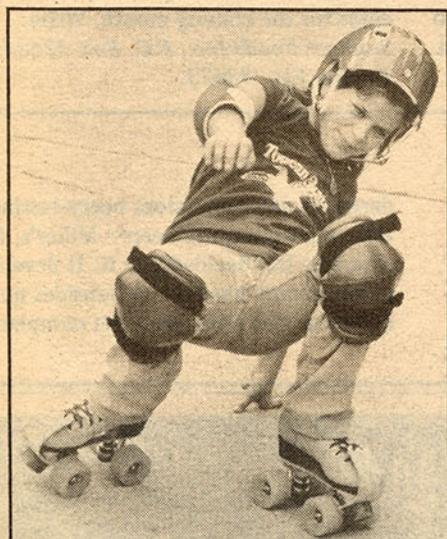
. . . so does Over The Rainbow

Over The Rainbow jewelry and gift shop, has moved from 330 Maynard to the corner space at Maynard and William previously occupied by Cafe Ladyfingers and, more recently, Los Burros Mexican restaurant. Owner Jeffrey Tothill, 23, got his retailing start as an E.M.U. undergrad several years ago at the July Art Fair, selling puka shell necklaces acquired on a Hawaiian vacation. He started Over The Rainbow two years ago in an inauspicious, low-visibility location. Aided by retail manager Billie Muirhead, he met

with surprising success, and now, with four times the space, he's expanding the retail end of his wholesale-retail business.

There'll be more high-ticket items, "unusual things from out-of-the-way places," Tothill says, in addition to some goods from local craftspeople. The glass-walled corner location will permit imaginative window displays with moving elements. Milt Kemnitz painted the huge window rainbows; Mike Moughanis did the construction work.

. . . and a street roller skating shop opens.



Toucan Skates at 619 East William (above Suwanee Springs Leather) is the first local business to take advantage of the street roller skating craze that first sur-

faced on the east and west coasts a few years ago. Street skaters are notoriously showy dressers, and the store's namesake, the toucan, is a brilliantly-colored tropical bird with a large beak.

Toucan Skates is owned by Pieter Wiest, 37, a freelance advertising representative, Frank Parkanzky, 31, and Dominic Michalik, 29.

Roller skating has been highly touted as a more exciting exercise alternative to running; it is often combined with disco music and complex dance steps. If you rent skates from Toucan (at \$3 for the first hour, \$1 for each additional hour), you can supply music with a stereo headphone set for \$.50 extra.

Toucan also sells outdoor and indoor skates. Typical heavy leather street skates cost about \$110. Their hard polyurethane wheels can stand up to rocks and glass. Wrist braces, knee and elbow pads, and helmets are also available.



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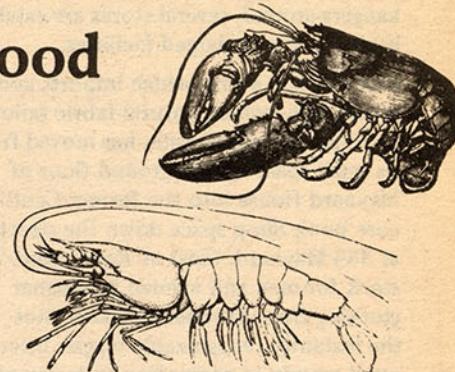
Top-quality seafood sold off a truck

People understandably want to look twice at a food business that operates from the back of a truck. "Good Deals" has taken that second look for its readers in the case of Sunliner Foods, Inc. of Tampa, Florida, purveyors of frozen fish and seafood. Once a month on a Saturday and Sunday, their big semi-truck freezer parks at one of several different locations along the Washtenaw strip in Ypsilanti. In our opinion, this is a first-class operation. There is nothing fly-by-night about it. First-quality products of the sea are offered off that truck at spectacularly low prices.

We caught the truck's visit for the first time in late July when it was parked at Whit's Rent-A-Truck at 2714 Washtenaw. As we walked over to it, we immediately saw two encouraging signs—Japanese families, notoriously fussy about fish, were buying fish and shrimp in quantity. And Italian families, lovers of good squid, were buying five-pound boxes of it. We talked to these people and found they were all very pleased, repeat customers who look forward to the arrival of Sunliner's truck every month through December. After a brief winter hiatus, the truck starts coming again in early spring.

We bought two 2½-lb. boxes of large shrimp at \$5.95/lb. (The common local retail price for these is \$8.99/lb.) But because we bought two boxes, the price was discounted and we ended up paying only \$5.65/lb. We also took home two pounds of ocean scallops. Everything was frozen granite hard.

Back home, we left the block of frozen shrimp out on the kitchen counter until we could just begin to pry off the quantity we wanted for our supper. Everything else then went into our freezer after we had double wrapped it, and over the next six weeks we enjoyed seafood dishes of high quality. The shrimp are so tasty that if you return the empty shells to the court bouillon you cooked them in and simmer the lot together, you have a fine base for a shrimp bisque. Just don't ever salt the cooking water if you



plan to use it this way. The large scallops were as sweet as some premium bay scallops we've had. If they were cut into pieces the size of the first joint on your little finger, we think they could fool scallop aficionados.

Here are some other prices from late July that prove this is indeed a good deal.

JUMBO SHRIMP

5-lb. box \$7.95/lb.
(Local retailers are getting \$11/lb. for these.)

TINY SALAD SHRIMP (peeled and deveined)

1-lb. bag \$3.59/lb.

ALASKA CRAB LEGS (split)

3½-lb. bag \$3.95/lb.

FROG LEGS (very small select)

2-lb. bag \$3.79/lb.

GROUPER FILLETS

2½-lb. bag \$2.59/lb.

FILLET OF SOLE

1½ and 2½-lb. bag \$2.19/lb.

SQUID

5-lb. box \$.65/lb.
\$.49/lb. with purchase of any box of shrimp.

JUMBO SCALLOPS

1 and 2-lb. bags \$4.95/lb.
(Common local retail price for these—\$6.99/lb.)

Sunliner sets up shop in various parking lots around this area. The firm is a little hard to find. Watch *The Ann Arbor News* for ads. Try to get on the mailing list for the current price list mailed out ahead of their scheduled stop here and for notice of their expected location and dates for the coming month. Write: Sunliner Foods Inc., P.O. Box 22684, Tampa, Fla. 33623.

Beer at a bargain

\$4.99 per twenty-four bottle case seems to be the lowest price for beer in town. Braumeister is the brand and Meijers Thrifty Acres is the place to find it. We bought some to check it out and found it to be a Pilsener type, somewhat

darker in color and more beer-tasting than some premium beers—Miller's, for example, but decidedly O.K. It develops a fine creamy head which subsides quickly, but at this price, who can complain?

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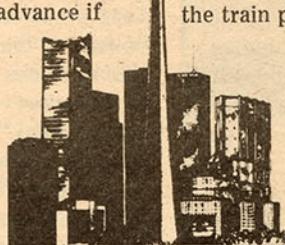
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Train trip to Toronto

The appealing city of Toronto is a favorite destination for Ann Arborites seeking the lift of a short out-of-town trip. Because of an exchange rate very favorable to the American dollar, low, low train fares on the heavily-subsidized Canadian rail system, and a number of moderately-priced hotels and good ethnic restaurants in the city, a weekend in Toronto is also a very good deal. The train ride is super-smooth over the well-maintained roadbed.

You can book cheap tours through Ann Arbor travel bureaus, but they are tied into one or another of several hotels. You can arrange your trip yourself by calling Rail Canada in Windsor—965-9470. They will tell you that a round trip for one person costs \$22, departing any day but Friday. The ticket is good for one to four days. \$12 extra gives you the luxury of riding in the splendid club car for the four-and-a-half hour trip. There you will be waited on by stewards who serve drinks and sandwiches. Rail Canada will tell you about the four hotels of varying prices that cooperate with them on package deals. Cost of packages runs from \$70 a person at the Lord Simcoe to \$95 a person at the Harbor Castle Hilton. These prices include round trip train fare, hotel for two nights based on double occupancy, plus breakfasts and a sight-seeing tour. Rates are quoted in Canadian dollars. Discount them 16% to get an accurate figure. You should book a week in advance for the package deals and for reservations in the club car. You can do this on the phone. Courtesy suggests canceling 24 hours in advance if you can't make it.



You will not need your car in Toronto. A spic-and-span subway, saturation bus routes, and lots of cabs criss-cross the whole town. Like European hotels, Canadian hotels are extremely helpful to a visitor in explaining where to find shopping areas, museums, theaters, and so forth. You will find in your hotel room an excellent guide to restaurants that accurately rates them and describes what they serve and how much they cost. Some parts of Toronto are just fun to walk around in, and that costs nothing. It is safe to stroll in Toronto in the evening; the city is lively at night the way American cities were a generation ago.

To reach the train station in Windsor, cross the river by the tunnel. The toll is 75¢. CHANGE YOUR MONEY IN CANADA! Canadian banks offer around 16%—American banks, 2 to 3% less. If you arrive outside of banking hours (banks in Canada are closed on Saturday), you can change your money at the Ontario Tourism Centre at the corner of Park and Goyeo, half a block from the exit from the tunnel. They are open every day of the week from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and they offer 15%. For the best deal, change your money back to American in Canada before you leave.

Now, ask directions to the train station—it isn't far—and park your car in a lot you will find about a block away from it. Parking there costs \$2.50 a calendar day.

Allow plenty of time for possible tie-ups with border officials at the tunnel and for doing your banking business before the train pulls out.

75 cent "prescription" sunglasses

Here's a solution for people who need prescription sunglasses but want to avoid their high cost. Since glasses frames have become high-style, they vary too much in size and shape for the old, dark clip-ons to work very well.

Now a firm in Pennsylvania is cutting strong, thin, undistorting colored plastic to conform to the outline of two popular shapes of eyeglasses. You suspend the piece of flat plastic on the bows of your glasses so it hangs between the lenses and your eyes. While these "glasses" make no style statement whatsoever, they do the job. They slip on and off easily. They are shatterproof, weigh next to nothing, and are good for use with cataract glasses. These slip-on sunglasses are very irregu-

larly available in Ann Arbor drugstores, but you can order them direct from *Yorktowne Optical Co., 467 W. Market St., York, PA 17404.*

Eventually the plastic may become scratched, so you might want to order two or three in Regular (small or large) or Upswept (one size only frame styles.) They come in green or gray. Price—75¢.

What are some good deals you know about? We'll pay \$5 each for suggestion we accept. Write to "Good Deals," Ann Arbor Observer, 206 South Main, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. Include details on availability, characteristics, and price of the proposed good deal in relation to similar products or services.

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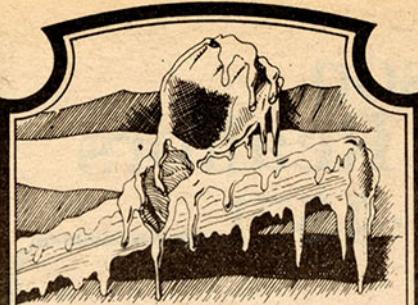


photo: Daniel S. Cutler

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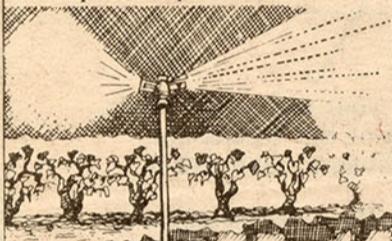
121 E. Liberty 663-3991
(across from the Pretzel Bell)



Fighting Frost With Frost

Many forest firefighters use the technique of fighting fire with fire, but until recent years who ever heard of fighting frost with frost? Sounds crazy, but it works.

Vintners spend many sleepless nights during March, April and May when the threat of a killing frost is always present. If the budding grape vines are frost-burned only a partial crop may develop or even no crop at all! My Dad calls this "the season of long days and short nights," because we are constantly alert for the frost alarm that gets us out of bed fast when the temperature dips to 35° F.



Overhead sprinkler systems are then turned on. Newly forming shoots which will eventually become grapes and leaves are showered with a fine mist that continually forms ice around the tender shoots as the temperature drops below 32° F. Water gives off heat when it freezes and the temperature of the shoots remains at 32° F as long as the misting continues. This protects the shoots from frost damage which occurs at 28° F and below.

Due to the drought conditions this year our frost protection could be curtailed for lack of water.

Fighting frost is just one of the many ways we protect grapes that make fine Sebastiani wines. Try our deep-flavored Cabernet Sauvignon... we think you'll agree, its outstanding quality makes our extra efforts worthwhile.

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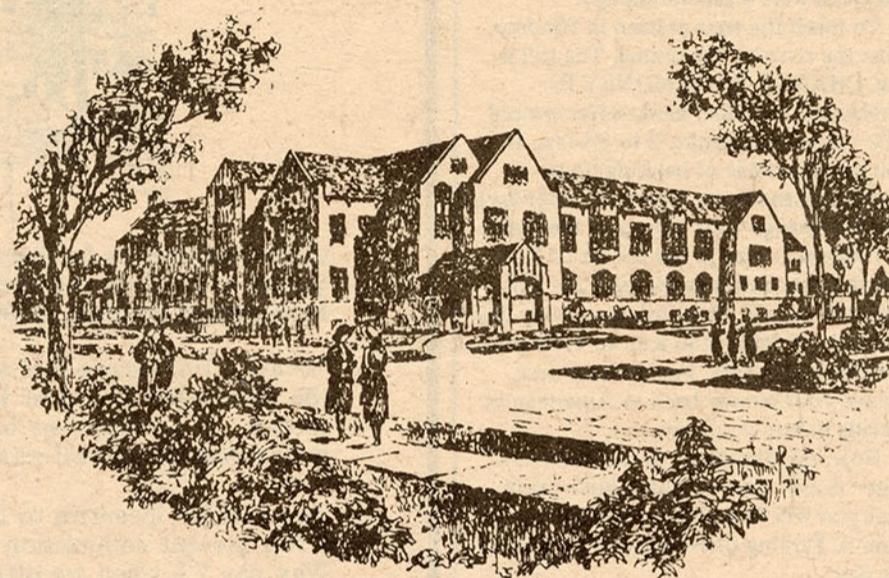
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RESTAURANTS

The Michigan League gets top marks for cafeteria-style food.



PETER YATES



By ANNETTE CHURCHILL

It is a pleasure to visit a restaurant that has analyzed its function with care and gone on to develop food and service systems that fulfill that function well. There is no contrived atmosphere at the Michigan League, just a pleasant, spacious room allowed to speak for itself. The cafeteria-style service suits the needs of its many regular customers, some of whom eat there eighteen times a week. (Breakfast is available in the snack bar downstairs.) Concert and theatergoers appreciate the League's location and the speed with which they can put together a satisfying meal and be on their way. Because so many customers eat at the League on a regular basis, the variety of dishes is kept large to avoid monotony. More than 2000 recipes, all of them in

use, have been collected in the kitchen's file. This is not a place where you can tell the day of the week by what entrees are offered.

Situated along the east side of the South Ingalls Mall opposite the Carl Milles Fountain, the Michigan League building is especially graceful on the U-M campus, which has so many mammoth buildings that overwhelm their users. The League is small in scale compared to the Michigan Union, which was designed by the same architects. Both are executed in the neo-Jacobean style popularly called "Collegiate Gothic," but the League has none of the Union's stylistic bombast—no tedious monumentality for its own sake, no grand flight of stone steps leading to overly grand front doors, almost too heavy to open. The Michigan League building graciously invites you to enter. It breathes gently.

THE MICHIGAN LEAGUE CAFETERIA
227 S. Ingalls, Tel: 764-3177

Description: Cheery, light dining room.

Fast moving line. Family feeling because of great numbers of regular, daily customers. Sometimes flowers. Genteel.

Recommended: Difficult to pick out as offerings are drawn from more than two thousand recipes used in rotation. Roast beef available every night and excellent. General quality, excellent. Desserts very good.

Price Range: Same at lunch and dinner. Entrees from \$1.50 to \$2.50. Vegetables 55¢. Fruit 55¢. Desserts 85¢.

Hours: Lunch Mon.-Sat.—11:30 to 1:15; Dinner Mon.-Sat.—5:30 to 7:15, Sunday Dinner only—11:30 to 2:15, International Dinners—Beginning in October, Thursday nights.

Wheelchair access: Barrier free door on N. University.

Fifty years ago this year the Michigan League was established in response to the policies of the recently opened Michigan Union, whose rules restricting women on the premises understandably angered alumnae and "coeds," as female students were then called. In one of the most energetic fund-raising campaigns the University has ever seen, alumnae and women students raised the money to build their own Union-like facility which included meeting rooms for student organizations, elegant and dignified rooms for formal events, hotel rooms, and a cafeteria.

When you walk into the Michigan League, you are immediately struck by its meticulous housekeeping. It stands in marked contrast to many other public areas of the University with their vaguely dusty floors, smudged switch plates, and sticky stair railings. The League positively glows with waxed surfaces; its floors and windows gleam. You can tell women run this place—an observation that may sink me with some people, but it's a fact.

The League's cafeteria line extends into the hall. A visitor who joins it immediately notices two things about the clientele. Men and women of every age from twenty to eighty make up the group, but customers of retirement age predominate. Perhaps they set the tone for the League mealtime crowds. This is an informal group but it is a noticeably mannerly one. The other thing one notices is that many of these people know one another. There is a lot of quiet conversation and exchange of greetings between them. The cafeteria line feels like an enormous family coming together as a matter of course to share a meal.

The food is good. It is cafeteria food—let me be clear about this—but it manages to avoid the two commonest char-

acteristics of cafeteria fare—the stale taste of things that have spent too long on a steam table, and mushy textures. Servings are ample, but never overpoweringly large. Five entrees and four vegetables are offered at lunch and at dinner. There is a nice balance between light things like unadorned roasted meats and heartier things like beef stroganoff and stuffed cabbage in their rich sauces.

Standing rib roast of beef is a fixture for dinner but all other entrees change constantly in bewildering variety. Vegetables may lack the barely-done crispness of the home-cooked kind because most of them begin frozen. However, they are never stale. Potatoes cooked two different ways are offered at every meal. It was the just-cooked flavor of those potatoes that puzzled me most. How could potatoes off a steam table taste so good? I spoke with Mrs. Lawson, the manager of the Michigan League, who filled me in on the disciplines the cafeteria management has developed over many years to maintain its quality.

"It comes down to good planning, good timing, and good recipes," Mrs. Lawson told me. "Miss Wilma Steketee, manager here for 22 years, was a stickler for quality. She traveled widely, and everywhere she went she collected ideas for expanding the cafeteria's offerings. Mrs. Orma Metzger is a fine cook who has been with us for 30 years or more and who now trains all our supervisors. She also collected ideas from her many travels. Both were superb adapters. Then they worked out systems whereby vegetables were cooked in small quantities and brought out for service a few at a time. The reason those potatoes taste so fresh is that we have a rule that nothing may rest on the steam trays for longer than 15 minutes. We try very hard to keep to that rule."

When I learned that the cafeteria serves between 600 and 1100 people a day in 3½ hours of serving time, I understood how important the trained supervisors must be to the operation. I was impressed by the sheer logistics of preparing and serving a total of ten entrees, eight vegetables, a dozen salads, plus four gravies, four soups, and a vegetarian entree every day, all under the strictures of small-batch cooking and its necessarily complicated time schedules.

On the negative side, I did not have a particularly good soup, but then I only sampled two out of possibly hundreds that repose in that vast recipe file. I found thickened gravies a bit heavy in texture and salty rather than flavorful. The pan-juice type gravies were fine. One salad dressing, blue cheese I think, was on the edge of being rancid.

But overall, I have enjoyed my meals at the Michigan League Cafeteria. It was hard to put together a meal that came to more than \$3.75. The roast beef can't be faulted. The desserts, bought on the outside, are good. Good rolls are available. And the coffee, praise be, is excellent.

Thursday-night international dinners begin this month, at which everything offered is inspired by cooking of a particular country. I was sorry I couldn't sample one of these popular menus before preparing this report.

One more observation about the cafeteria of the Michigan League that may interest many people unfamiliar with it. It is the only place I have eaten in Ann Arbor where I felt perfectly comfortable eating alone. □

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CALENDAR

TO PUBLICIZE EVENTS IN THE CALENDAR

Mail press releases and additional information to Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 206 South Main, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

With a very few exceptions, events must be within Ann Arbor. Always include the address and phone number of a reachable contact person. The calendar is published a month ahead; notices for September events, for example, must arrive in August. All material received by the 15th of the preceding month can be used as space permits; material submitted later may or may not get in.

2 TUESDAY

Ann Arbor Track Club
Tuesday Night Fun Runs
(also October 9, 16 and 23)

Runners of all levels, from beginners on up, are invited to participate in these events. Course of 1, 3, or 6 miles. Bring the whole family.

6 p.m., Pioneer High (except October 16 run is at Huron High). Free.

5 FRIDAY

Benefit Concert for Ars Musica Orchestra

The only active ensemble of its kind in America, Ars Musica, Ann Arbor's Baroque orchestra, is widely considered one of the best anywhere. This fund-raising activity will support a wide range of activities from promotion of concert tours to audience development. It promises to be a gala evening with contributing performers Edward Parmentier, Elisabeth Humes, Marilyn Mason, Tom Pixton, and of course, the Ars Musica Orchestra. Music of Bach and Farina.

—Evans Mirages

8:00 p.m., Michigan League Ballroom.
For ticket information, call 662-3976.

5 FRIDAY through 7 SUNDAY

"Showboat"—PTP
"Best of Broadway"

"Showboat," like the river it plies, just keeps rollin' along. And why not? A magnificent score by Jerome Kern and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II have made this tale of a Mississippi steamer a classic. Forrest Tucker, known to millions of television viewers as the sergeant in "F Troop," stars in the role of Captain Andy. Buttefly McQueen plays Queenie.

Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m., Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., Power Center. Tickets, \$11 - 15 Fri./Sat.; \$9 - 13 Sun. PTP Ticket Office, Michigan League, 764-0450.

6 SATURDAY

Recycle Ann Arbor—
Pickup of Recyclable Materials

Ann Arbor residents in the area bounded by Main St., Liberty St., and Stadium Blvd. may take advantage of this free pickup of recyclable materials.

To use the free service, area residents need only place their materials on the curb by 9 a.m. Newspapers and magazines should be separated and *bundled securely*. Cans should be flattened, with the labels removed. Glass must be sorted

by color (clear, brown and green), and *all metal rings and foil must be removed from the necks of bottles*. The group also collects aluminum (cans, foil, lawn furniture, siding, etc.) and cardboard (bundled securely, please.)

Since it began operation in May, 1978, Recycle Ann Arbor has collected and sold back to companies for reuse over 150 tons of recyclable materials.

For more information, or if you cannot carry your materials to the curb, please call 665-6398.

Third Annual Washtenaw County Mutual Aid Fire Safety Day

This all-day event features a display of twenty-eight pieces of fire fighting equipment, some of it dating back to the 1800's. 150 fire fighters from fire departments around Washtenaw County will participate in fire safety demonstrations.

10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Meijer's Thrifty Acres parking lot, 3825 Carpenter Road. Free. Rain date, October 13.

Quilt Fair

The distinctive American craft of quilting is the focus of this display and sale sponsored by the United Methodist Women of First United Methodist Church.

Many of the fifty-odd quilts in the exhibit date back to the nineteenth century; one even incorporates pieces of a uniform from the Spanish-American War! The Fair also includes quilts and quilt-related items for sale as well as a bake sale.

10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 120 South State Street (between E. Washington and E. Huron). Donation, \$1.00.

Genealogy Workshop

The Friends of the Ann Arbor Public Library and the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County co-sponsor this event, designed to introduce family history researchers to two outstanding library collections and to alert them to the fertile resources of public documents.

Dorothy M. Lower, Head of Historical Genealogy, will describe the extensive materials available in the Public Library of Fort Wayne and Allen County, Indiana. The Burton Collection, another important resource for genealogists, will be discussed by Alice Dalligan, Head of the Detroit Public Library's genealogy and local history section. Dean Russell E. Bidlack of the U-M's School of Library Science will guide would-be researchers in the use of birth, death, marriage court and land records, using examples from his own research.

1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Ann Arbor Public Library, 343 South Fifth Avenue. Registration Fee \$2. Pre-registration necessary. Applications available at the library.

6 SATURDAY and 7 SUNDAY

Waterloo Hunt Club— Annual Fall Horse Show of Hunters and Jumpers

A handsome horse show takes place each year on this peak-of-the-color weekend near Grass Lake, thirty minutes from Ann Arbor. The public is invited.

Showing of the participating hunters and jumpers, all of whom have actually hunted, begins at 8 a.m. Saturday. The day's events culminate in the afternoon with the hunt pair and hunt team competitions when all riders are dressed in formal hunt attire—pinks, tall silk hats, and the whole colorful array. Refreshments (hamburgers) are available on Saturday.

Sunday morning is reserved for a formal hunt for Club members. At 2 p.m. Sunday the public is invited to see an event which features breeding points in horses, followed by a driving

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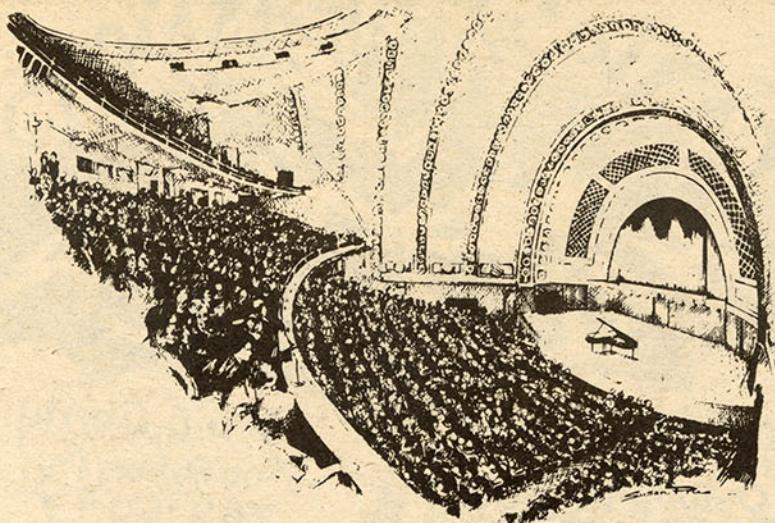
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THE MOSCOW POPS

Oct. 17

The Nekrasov Russian Folk Orchestra and Stars of the Bolshoi Theatre provide a unique pairing of two of the Soviet Union's most exciting traditions. A full orchestra devoted to a centuries-old sound of thrilling balalaikas and domras, with Bolshoi artists singing peasant ballads and masterpieces by Soviet composers. Wed. 8:30, Hill Aud.

CHINESE ACROBATS

Nov. 3

These spectacular Chinese Acrobats of Taiwan must be seen to be believed — and all who were awed by their breathtaking acts here in 1978 will agree that their super-human feats are not to be missed. A company of 65, including musicians, with elaborate and colorful costumes. Sat. 8:30, Hill Aud.

FRED WARING SHOW

Nov. 16

Fred Waring — born in 1900 — the man who has helped to shape the musical content of this century through radio, recordings, movies, Broadway, television, and the concert stage. This musical variety extravaganza provides incomparable entertainment for all ages by this master showman and his Young Pennsylvanians. Fri. 8:30, Hill Aud.

RAMPAL and LAGOYA

Feb. 18

Flute & Guitar

An extra-special special! Two Frenchmen renowned for their artistry and complete mastery of their instruments — Jean-Pierre Rampal, "the flute king," and Alexandre Lagoya, "guitarist supreme" — team for an evening which promises the utmost in musical satisfaction. Be sure to obtain tickets early for this one! Mon. 8:30, Hill Aud.

FOUNDERS DAY

Feb. 24

To commemorate this important day in the history of the Musical Society, Donald Bryant will conduct The Festival Chorus in George Frederick Handel's marvelous oratorio, "Israel in Egypt." This concert is a "bonus" for Choral Union series subscribers, with general admission tickets at \$3 for other concertgoers. Sun. 4:00, Hill Aud.

UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY

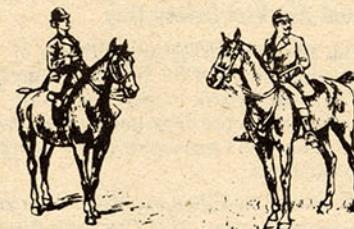
Tickets at Burton Tower, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48109
Weekdays 9-4:30, Sat. 9-12. Phone (313) 665-3719

CALENDAR /continued

competition with colorful carts— governesses, hackneys, milk wagons, even small coaches, some with grooms sitting high at the back. Participants are dressed in period styles.

Bring a blanket, folding chair, or shooting stick to sit on. And plan on visiting, while you are there, the charming old town of Grass Lake, where there are several notable shops— one dealing in miniatures for the collector, another in restored demolition treasures like antique stained glass windows. There is a fine old-fashioned hardware store, too.

Admission free. Ringside parking is \$10, parking away from ring free. Take I-94 west to the Grass Lake exit, turn right, proceed to Katz Road. Turn right onto Katz, continue to corner of Glenn. Anyone interested in showing has until Friday, October 5 to call 668-7716 to make arrangements.



6 SATURDAY and 13 SATURDAY

"Igloos and Oopiks: Inuit Life and Art"

An hour-long program for children aged 6-12 held in conjunction with the exhibitions of Canadian Inuit (Eskimo) prints and sculpture at the U-M Museum of Art.

Planned by Cydna Mercer, a U-M graduate student in museum practice, each program consists of short films, storytelling and a tour of the exhibitions.

10:30 a.m., U-M Museum of Art, corner of South State and South University. Reservations required. Call 763-1231.

7 SUNDAY

Loewenbraeu Olympic Bicycle Benefit Ride

12-mile, 45-mile and 100-mile rides through the autumn-colored countryside. All entrants receive free cider and T-shirts; the largest pre-registered "team" gets a prize. Organized by the Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.

8 a.m. at Forsythe School, Newport Road at Sunset, \$5 entrance donation; proceeds to the U.S. Olympic Cycling Team. Child care available. For more information, call 663-1604 (Kolins Cycling Center).

Children's Concert at The Ark

Bill and Livia Vanaver in a program of children's songs and dances.

3 p.m., The Ark Coffeehouse, 1421 Hill, \$1.50.

Fifth Annual March Against Hunger

Each segment of this ten-mile walk you complete raises money through pledges to combat the problem of hunger.

Co-sponsored by the Interfaith Council for Peace and CROP (the community hunger appeal of Church World Service), the march is ex-

pected to net approximately \$20,000, part of which will be used on the local level for free meal programs in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, for the Neighborhood Peace Center in Ann Arbor, the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Ypsilanti, and Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County. The rest of the money will go toward short-term relief and long-term solutions for the plight of hungry people in South America, Africa, and Vietnam, as well as CROP's educational efforts in the U.S.

1:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 North Division, Ann Arbor. For further information, contact the Interfaith Council for Peace at 663-7423.

7 SUNDAY through 13 SATURDAY

National Beauty Salon Week "Cut-a-Thons"

If you've been thinking of shearing your locks, this is the week to do it. Proceeds from cuts at four local beauty schools will go toward the purchase of a portable incubator for Mott Children's Hospital and to St. Jude's. All cuts are overseen by professional hairdressers, and prices are in the \$4 - 5 range. On October 7, try Preston's Beauty Academy (9 a.m. - 9 p.m.), State College of Beauty (1 p.m. - 5 p.m.), or Alexandra Beauty School (1 p.m. - 5 p.m.); on October 11, Omega Cosmetology Institute (9 a.m. - 5 p.m.). In addition, canisters will be set up in local salons for donations during the entire week.

9 TUESDAY

Booked for Lunch

Energy will be the subject of the first program in the Library's 1979 - 80 "Booked for Lunch" series. Bring your lunch and hear Steve McCargal, Staff Coordinator at the Ann Arbor Ecology Center, discuss two important recent publications analyzing American energy resources and policies: Barry Commoner's *The Politics of Energy* and Daniel Yergin and Robert Stobaugh's *Energy Future*.

12:10 p.m., Main Library Meeting Room, Ann Arbor Public Library, Fifth and William. Free. Coffee and tea provided.

10 WEDNESDAY

"Onibaba" (Kanoto Shindo, 1963) "An Autumn Afternoon" (Yasujirō Ozu, 1962) at Ann Arbor Film Cooperative

A double-feature presentation of a fantasy of feudal Japan and a contemplation of Japan's modern society. "Onibaba," a tale of women of the reed fields who prey on Samurai warriors, has become a horror cult favorite. "An Autumn Afternoon" is the last film by Ozu, who has been called the most "Japanese" of Japan's directors for the extreme formality and purity of his art. Ozu's camera angles are certainly Japanese: much of the film is shot from the point of view of an observer seated on a tatami mat. A summing up of the themes of a long career, this film deals with the relationships between generations in changing Japan, and it is Ozu's most cynical film. —Harvey Hamburger

"Onibaba," 7 p.m., "An Autumn Afternoon," 9 p.m., Natural Science Auditorium. \$1.50; \$2.50 double feature.

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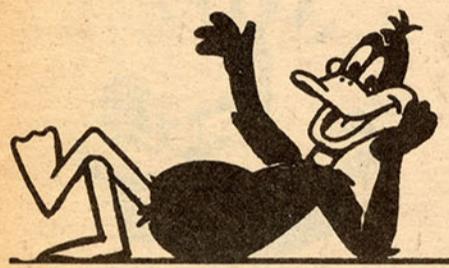
12 FRIDAY

"14th International Tournee of Animation" "Hollywood Cartoons" at Ann Arbor Film Cooperative

The "Tournee" consists of internationally-acclaimed short subjects—"the best recent animation anywhere in the world" (*Los Angeles Times*). You can compare the efforts of these upstarts to the grand tradition of "Hollywood Cartoons" assembled from the archives of Warner Brothers and other studios. Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Porky Pig, Felix the Cat, Heckle and Jeckle, and other all-American stars are featured in these twelve select cartoons.

—Harvey Hamburgh

"Tournee," 7 and 10:20 p.m., "Hollywood Cartoons," 8:40 only, Modern Language Building, Auditorium 3. \$1.50; \$2.50 double feature.



"Death in Venice" at Cinema II

Directed by Luchino Visconti, 1972. The film is a masterpiece; a fitting tribute to the Thomas Mann novella, one of the great love stories of modern literature. Mann based his 1911 story on the personality of composer Gustav Mahler's melancholy symphonies and Visconti's sumptuous visuals support a poignant performance by Dirk Bogarde. There is little dialogue; the music and Visconti's visions of the decadent society of Venice's Lido are all that is needed to convey exquisite feeling. Bjorn Andresen is haunting as the boy.

—Harvey Hamburgh

7 p.m. only, Angell Hall, Auditorium A. \$1.50.

12 FRIDAY through 14 SUNDAY

Klezmorim concert at The Ark

A real Yiddish street band plays and sings in Yiddish.

9 p.m., The Ark Coffeehouse, 1421 Hill. \$4.00.

"Murder in the Cathedral"

T. S. Eliot's drama, often studied and seldom presented, finds an appropriate setting at St. Andrew's Church, the oldest Gothic church in this part of Michigan. Presented by the St. Andrew's Players and directed by radio personality Ted Heusel, the play details the last days of martyr Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, murdered in 1170 because of his opposition to Henry II's policies toward the church.

8:00 p.m., St. Andrew's Church, 306 North Division. Admission at the door, \$3.00, students \$2.00.

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14 SUNDAY

A Walk through an Urban Woodlot

Washtenaw County supports many fine old woodlots in urban areas. Whether these woodlots are assets or detriments to the community depends largely on their maintenance and development. Join on a walk through Park Washtenaw to discuss these and other questions. Led by a Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation naturalist.

10 a.m. Meet at Park Washtenaw, in the parking lot on Medford, just off Manchester.

Mozart Community Sing

The Ann Arbor Community Singers open their third season with an impromptu reading of two Mozart works, "Ave Verum Corpus" and "Solemn Vespers." Both singers and listeners are welcome. Scores and refreshments are provided. Howard Bond conducts, with Betsy Kincaid at the organ.

2 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 120 South State Street. Donation, \$1.00.

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra

Under the baton of Edward Szabo, the AASO opens its fifty-first Free Concert Series with Brahms' "Academic Festival Overture," Beethoven's "Symphony No. 1 in C Major," Ravel's "Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in G Major," with pianist Charles Fisher, soloist, and Smetana's "The Moldau."

3:30 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free.

15 MONDAY

Arlene Francis—Town Hall Celebrity Lecture Series

If you remember when you used to settle back into your recliner to see the urbane and witty panelists on "What's My Line" ad-lib their way through guesses at unusual occupations, then you need no introduction to the speaker at this initial event in the Margaret Waterman Alumnae '79-'80 Town Hall Celebrity Lecture Series.

Vivacious Arlene Francis reminisces about her life in radio, television, motion pictures, and the stage. Proceeds from sales go toward awards in creative writing and art to Pioneer, Huron, and Community High Schools, and for scholarships to undergraduate women at the U-M.

10:30 a.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. Tickets, \$8.00 at the door. For further information, call 662-3587 or 665-8912.

Recital by guitarist Michael Lorimer

A world premiere! Lorimer returns to Ann Arbor for the first performance of "Shadows" by U-M composer William Albright, commissioned by the University Musical Society. Lorimer is a most versatile guitarist, one of the few modern performers to use a specially reconstructed Baroque guitar for this unusual literature.

—Evans Mirages

8:30 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets available at University Musical Society, Burton Tower, 665-3717.

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WILLIAM LEACHE in **The Relapse** or *Virtue in Danger*

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CALENDAR /continued

17 WEDNESDAY

Moscow Pops Concert

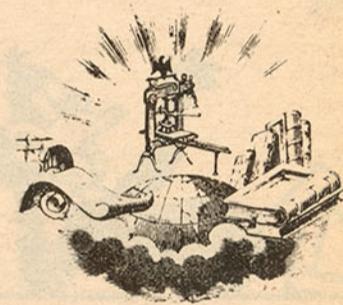
Pops concerts come in all shapes and sizes, and now there's one from Moscow. It is an evening of concert music sung by the stars of the Bolshoi Opera; lighter concert favorites, directed by Nikolai Nekrasov; dances from members of the Kiev Ballet; and folk music from many areas of the Soviet Union. A full orchestra and a full evening of entertainment from the U.S.S.R.

—Evans Mireagias

8:30 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets available at University Musical Society, Burton Tower, 665-3717.

Book lovers will learn how to narrow their interests to conserve money, energy, and storage space, and how to care for books purchased. The experts will guide collectors through early English and American publications, as well as those of the twentieth century. Other topics include book ornamentation, illustration, and typography. Time will be allotted for participants to examine a large display of handsome collectible books.

1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Ann Arbor Public Library, 343 South Fifth Avenue. Registration fee \$1.00. Pre-registration advised; workshop limited to 125. Registration forms available at the library.



17 WEDNESDAY through 21 SUNDAY

"Idiot's Delight" at PTP

Robert E. Sherwood's 1936 Pulitzer Prize play, "Idiot's Delight," shows us an odd assortment of travelers detained in an Italian resort-hotel just before the outbreak of World War II. Although strangers with little in common, the hotel guests all have vital personal stakes in the impending disaster. Their reactions paint a satirical and poignant portrait of humanity.

The Professional Theater Program production stars Philip LeStrange, who played the mayor in last season's Guest Artist production of Gogol's "The Inspector General."

Oct. 17-20 at 8 p.m., Oct. 21 at 2 p.m., Power Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets, \$9 - \$15, PTP Ticket Office, 764-0450, or Power Center Box Office on day of performance, 763-3333.

21 SUNDAY

"Pandora's Box" at Cinema Guild

Directed by G.W. Pabst, 1928. This silent classic is a sensuous document of the hedonistic '20's. It stars Louise Brooks, one of the most glowingly beautiful and vivacious women ever to grace the screen. Brooks (who today works occasionally as a free-lance journalist) plays a character created by Frank Wedekind: Lulu, the *femme fatale* with the heart of gold. Lulu's liaisons with both men and women culminate when she is down and out on the foggy streets of London, where one Christmas eve she encounters a man with no money to pay her. "Never mind," she tells Jack the Ripper, "I like you . . ."

—Harvey Hamburger

7 and 9:05 p.m. Old Architecture Auditorium on Monroe, \$1.50.

19 FRIDAY

Ralph Nader and Maggie Kuhn Lecture

As part of the activities for Co-op Month, consumer advocate Ralph Nader and Maggie Kuhn, founder of the Gray Panthers, will speak on "Economic Democracy and Life Style of This New Age— Independence and Cooperation."

7:00 p.m., Ballroom, Michigan Union. Tickets \$2.00 in advance, \$2.50 at the door. Sponsored by NASCO, 663-0889.

26 FRIDAY

"Bread and Chocolate" at Ann Arbor Film Cooperative

Directed by Franco Brusati, 1978. If you missed this film that should have won last year's Oscar for best foreign movie, then don't pass up this chance. Nino Manfredi delivers a classic performance in the role of an Italian guest worker trying to cope with life in alien Switzerland. The plight of such workers, one of Europe's serious social problems, is deftly portrayed in tragicomic incidents. Although one sequence is all too clearly derivative of Renoir's "La Grande Illusion," the humanity of Brusati's conception compares favorably to the best of Renoir's films. Manfredi's comic charm and vacillating anguish carry the film.

—Harvey Hamburger

7, 8:40 and 10:20 p.m., Modern Language Building, Auditorium 3. \$1.50.

19 FRIDAY through 21 SUNDAY

"In the Boom Boom Room" presented by MUSKET

The New Musket Company opens its season with a production of David Rabe's "In the Boom Boom Room." Rabe's play, which premiered at Lincoln Center in 1973, traces the rise of Chrissy, a young woman who goes from grocery checker at a local A&P to go-go dancer at a major discotheque. Along the way, Rabe poses questions of morality, decadence and confusion.

8:00 p.m. on the 19th and 20th, 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on the 21st, East Quad Auditorium. \$3.00.

20 SATURDAY

Workshop on Book Collecting

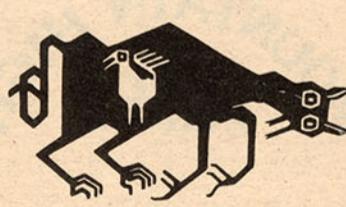
This event of special interest to book collectors is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The panel of expert speakers includes Ruth Iglesias of Hartfield Books, Tom Nicely of Leaves of Grass Books, Jay Platt of West Side Books, Keven Sheets of State Street Bookshop, and Robert Iglesias, Professor Emeritus, U-M, and Art Critic of *The Ann Arbor News*.

—Evans Mireagias

8:00 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free.

"King David" (Arthur Honneger)

Directed by Thomas Hilbush and H. Robert Reynolds in the original version for wind instruments and choir. This School of Music Production combines the talents of two highly acclaimed ensembles on campus, the University Choir and the Wind Ensemble. "King David" is recognized as one of the finest twentieth century oratorios with equal emphasis placed on voices and instruments.



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26 FRIDAY through
28 SUNDAY

"Da"—PTP "Best of Broadway"

Winner of practically every prestigious theatrical award, including the Tony for Best Play of the Year, "Da" is still running on Broadway.

This autobiographical play by Irish playwright Hugh Leonard portrays a son coming to terms with his father and himself. Critics have acclaimed its humor and wisdom.

Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., Power Center. Tickets, Fri. and Sat. \$8 - 12, Sunday \$6 - 10, PTP Box Office, 764-0450.

27 SATURDAY

"Fantastic Animation Festival" at Cinema Guild

This festival features "Light" by Jordan Belson, one of the most important experimental film-makers in America. He continually explores the essence of film as an abstract dynamism of light and color. Also included are "Cosmic Cartoon," "Moonshadow" by Cat Stevens, "Superman vs. the Mechanical Monsters" by Max Fleischer, award-winning animated commercials, and, of course, "Bambi Meets Godzilla."

—Harvey Hamburger

7 and 9:05 p.m., Old Architecture Auditorium on Monroe. \$1.50.

The Chamber Orchestra Society

The Chamber Orchestra Society of Ann Arbor opens its third season with a concert in its new home at the Michigan Theater. F. Carl Daehler, Jr. conducts the 22-member orchestra in music by Handel, Haydn, and Gileadi. Special guest soloist Winifred Mayes, formerly with the Boston and Philadelphia Symphony Orchestras, will perform the Boccherini "Concerto for Violoncello" with the orchestra.

During the 40-minute, European-style intermission, the Chamber Orchestra Wind Trio will provide background music in the theater lobby for the enjoyment of concert-goers. Food and beverages catered by Ann Arbor's Moveable Feast will be available for purchase.

9 p.m., Michigan Theater, Liberty at Maynard. Tickets \$6.00, by calling the Chamber Orchestra Society at 996-0066.

28 SUNDAY

A Fall's-end Tour of Park Lyndon

In preparation for winter, Park Lyndon's animals and plants slip into the critical state of rest known as dormancy, enabling them to survive the harsh winter ahead. Lyndon's pond and woodlands provide an ideal opportunity to examine this fragile sleep. Led by a Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation naturalist.

10 a.m. Meet at the eastern most parking lot at Park Lyndon on North Territorial Road one mile east of M-52.

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October 5, 6, 7

Bryan Bowers — autoharp, singer-songwriter

October 7

Children's Concert — 2:00 p.m. with Bill & Lydia Vanaver. Songs, stories, & dance by this talented couple who are touring the U.S. doing music for kids.

October 12, 13, 14

Klezmorim — A Yiddish street band. Unusual, exciting and fun.

October 19, 20

Kenny Hall & the Long Haul String Band — the legendary Kenny Hall on mandolin doing old time songs & pop tunes from the 30's & 40's

October 22

Alistair Anderson — concertina virtuoso. Also plays the Northumbrian smallpipes

October 25

Joe Heaney — Ireland's best ballad singer. Declared a "National Treasure" by the Irish government in 1977.

October 26, 27, 28

Gamble Rogers — songwriter, storyteller, humorist. As heard on 'All Things Considered'

Wednesdays — Variety Night

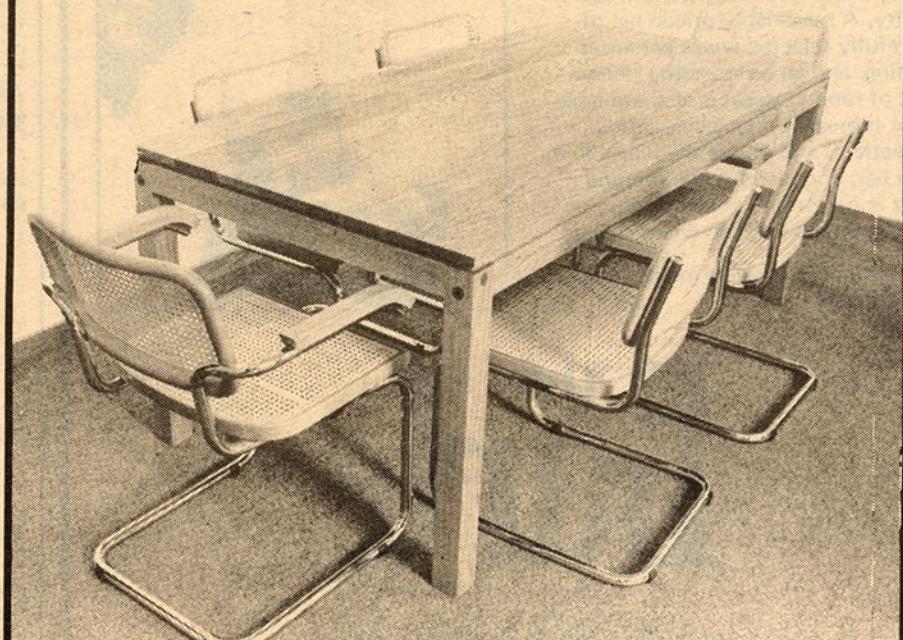
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**October 26 thru 28
Curtain 8:00 p.m.**

**Quirk Auditorium
EMU Campus**

General Public	\$3.50
EMU Student	\$2.25
Box Office	487-1220

CALENDAR /continued

Historic Homes Tour

The Greenhills School Auxiliary is sponsoring a tour of six Ann Arbor historic homes, the proceeds of which will go to the school's Scholarship Fund.

Homes on the tour include 1606 Cambridge, of Spanish Colonial design; 1310 Hill, Edward Campbell House, a Georgian Colonial; 1410 Hill, built in 1898; 1530 Hill, a Greek Revival style home dating from 1848; 1547 Washburn, the Italianate 1860 home of former U-M acting President Henry Simmons Frieze; and the Kempf House, 312 South Division, a Greek Revival structure which is a city-owned and operated house museum.

12 noon to 5 p.m. \$5.00. Cost of the tour includes an open house and refreshments at Greenhills School, 840 Greenhills Drive.

Ann Arbor Track Club Seventh Annual Turkey Trot

Men and women at all levels are invited to participate in this annual event. Course of 5 or 10 kilometers.

1:00 p.m. Co-sponsored by Community High School. Pre-registration required. \$2.00 fee. Forms available at most local sporting goods stores.



The Sterling Chamber Players

This five-musician group specializes in piano chamber music from the eighteenth century to the present. Their October concert provides a smorgasbord of selections from piano chamber literature, each work presenting piano paired with a different combination of instruments. Pieces will include selections from Clara Schumann's Trio, Op. 17, for violin, cello and piano; Milhaud's Suite for violin, clarinet and piano; and Hovhaness' Trio, Op. 3, for violin, cello and piano. Carol Kenney, piano; Linda Duneske, cello; Evelyn Avsharian, violin; Susan Alexander, clarinet.

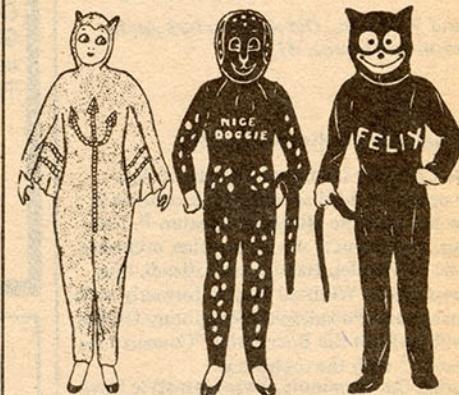
2 p.m., Pendleton Room, Michigan Union. Adults \$3.00; Students, \$1.00.



*The Sterling Chamber Players—
Left to right: Evelyn Avsharian, violin;
Stephen Pike, French horn; Linda
Duneske, cello; Carol Kenney, pianist,
and Susan Alexander, clarinet.*

**28 SUNDAY through
31 WEDNESDAY**

Halloween Haunted House



What would Halloween be without spooks and goblins? Come to the Haunted House at the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Building, 201 Mulholland. 50¢ admits a kid-size ghost; 75¢ the giant adult version.

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Friday, October 19 4-9pm

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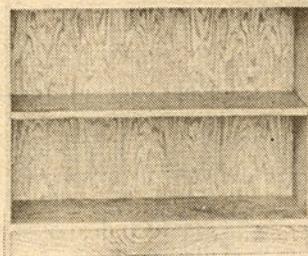
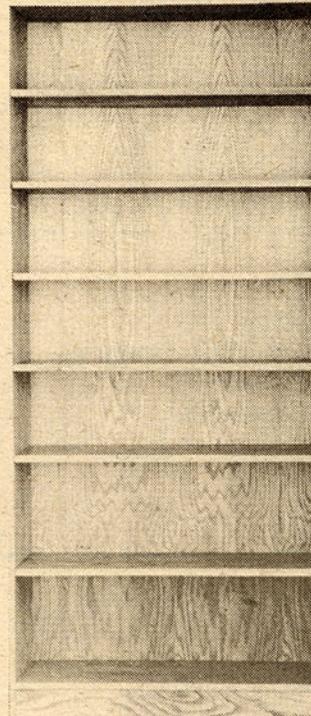
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